Proceedings of the Council

OF THE

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

Index to Vol. XL.

JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1908.

Published by Authority of the Council.

Calcutta:

BENGAL SECRETARIAT PRESS.

1909.

INDEX TO THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

COUNCIL OF THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

A

PAGE

ACT XXXVI OF 1858. AMENDMENT OF.
See Indian Lunatic Asylums (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . .

ADJOURNMENTS OF COUNCIL. *See* Council.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS. *See* Questions.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS. *See* Questions.

ALIPORE REFORMATORY SCHOOL. *See* Questions.

ALLEN, HON'BLE SIR CHARLES, KT.—
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 162

ANARCHISM, Presidents' statement as to, ... 206

APPLICATION OF INCOME UNDER THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE ACT, 1871. *See* Questions.

APPOINTMENT OF SUBORDINATE JUDGES. *See* Questions.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE. *See* Questions.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE AND THE SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICES. *See* Questions.

Ardhodya Jog COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS. *See* Questions.

B

BABU DURGA CHARAN SANYAL'S CASE. *See* Questions.

BENGAL COURT OF WARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908—
Leave to introduce 260
Introduced and read in Council . . . . . *ib.*
Referred to a Select Committee . . . . . *ib.*
Report of Select Committee presented 282

BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1908-09—
Laid before Council on 21st March, 1908 30
Discussed in Council . . . . . 83—192

BENGAL LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL—
Recommitted to Select Committee 208
Addition to Select Committee . . . . . *ib.*
Report of Select Committee presented 224
Further Report of Select Committee, considered . . . . . *ib.*
Clauses of Bill considered . . . . . *ib.*

PAGE

BENGAL LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL—*contd.*
Amendments proposed and adopted . . 228, 230, 231, 236, 237, 239, 240, 241
Ditto ditto and negatived 227, 234, 238
Amendments withdrawn 228, 237
Bill passed 242

BENGAL REPEALING BILL, 1908—
Leave to introduce 247
Introduced in Council . . . . . *ib.*
To be considered at next meeting . . . . . *ib.*
Bill considered 257
Bill passed . . . . . *ib.*

BERAI CANAL PROJECT. *See* Questions

BHAIRAB VALLEY DRAINAGE SCHEME. *See* Questions

BIHAR SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING. *See* Questions

BROWN, HON'BLE MR. W.—
Farewell speech by 286

BROWN, HON'BLE MR. W., appointed to Select Committee on—
Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 260

BUDGET. *See* Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09.

BURDWAN, HON'BLE MAHARAJADHIRAJA BIJAY CHAND MAHATAB BAHADUR OF—
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 131
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908 227
Farewell speech by 284

BURDWAN, HON'BLE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF, appointed to Select Committee on—
Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 260
Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 259
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 221

C

CALCUTTA BEGGARS. *See* Questions.

CALCUTTA PORT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908—
Leave to introduce 196
Introduced and read in Council . . . . . *ib.*
Clauses of Bill considered . . . . . *ib.*
Bill passed . . . . . *ib.*

CARRYING OF HINDU CORPSES IN THE DUM-DUM CANTONMENT. *See* Questions.

CASE OF GIRIDHARI LALL MARWARI. *See* Questions.

CASE OF PRISONER DURGA CHARAN SANYAL. *See* Questions

CENTRAL WEAVING SCHOOL IN SERAMPORE. *See* Questions.

CHAPMAN, HON'BLE MR. E. P., appointed to Select Committee on—
Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908. 260
Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 259

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES IN THE PRESIDENCY DIVISION. *See* Questions.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES IN THE SUNDARBANS. *See* Questions.

CHINESE CARPENTERS. *See* Questions.

PAGE

CHINESE SHOE-MAKERS. *See* Questions.

CHOTA NAGPUR ENCUMBERED ESTATES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908—

Leave to introuce 258
Introduced and read in Council . . . . . *ib.*
Referred to a Select Committee 259
Addition to Select Committee 282

CHOTA NAGPUR TENANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1907.

Withdrawn 213

CHOTA NAGPUR TENANCY BILL, 1908—

Leave to introduce 213
Introduced and read in Council 221
Referred to a Select Committee . . . . . *ib.*
Report of Select Committee presented 247
To be considered at next meeting . . . . . *ib.*
Report of Select Committee considered 260
Clauses of Bill considered 261
Amedments proposed and adopted 261, 267-274
Ditto and negatived 263, 267
Re-numbering of clauses and sub-clauses of Bill 274
Bill passed 276

CHOTA NAGPUR TENANCY AND SETTLEMENT BILL, 1908. *See* Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908.

CLASSES IN INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY IN THE SIBPUR COLLEGE. *See* Questions.

COLLIN, HON'BLE MR. E. W.—

Bengal Financial Statement, 1908-09 165

COLLIN, HON'BLE MR. E. W., appointed to Select Committee on—

Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 16

COMMENTS IN SESSIONS COURTS ON CONDUCT OF POLICE OFFICERS. *See* Questions.

COMMENTS IN THE PRESS WITH REFERENCE TO CRITICISMS OF THE POLICE IN JUDGMENTS OF THE COURTS. *See* Questions.

COMPULSORY RETIREMENT IN SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE. *See* Questions.

CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR. *See* Questions.

COUNCIL OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL—

Adjournments of, ... 8, 77, 192, 221, 242, 247
Ditto to a date to be notified hereafter 16, 208, 286
Ditto *sine die* 204, 276
Meetings of, ... 1, 9, 17, 79, 193, 205, 209, 223, 243, 249, 277

See Debates.

COURT INSPECTORS IN THE CALCUTTA POLICE COURT. *See* Questions.

COURT OF WARDS. *See* Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908.

COVENANTED CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS. *See* Questions.

CREATION OF A SEPARATE JUDGESHIP AT KHULNA. *See* Questions.

CRIMINAL COURTS SITTING AT NIGHT. *See* Questions.

PAGE

D

DAMODAR RIVER DAM. *See* Questions.

DAS, HON'BLE MR. M. S.—

Farewell speech by. 289

DEATH OF RAJANI KANTA DASS. *See* Questions.

DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI. *See* Sarbadhikari.

DEBATES IN COUNCIL ON—

Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 260
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 83-192
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill 224-242
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 260-276
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . . 11-16, 196-204

DISPOSAL OF FEES AND FINES COLLECTED UNDER THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE ACT, 1871 (BEN. ACT IV OF 1871.) *See* Questions.

DISTURBANCES IN CALCUTTA IN OCTOBER, 1907 *See* Questions.

DISTURBANCES IN THE CHAMPARAN DISTRICT. *See* Questions.

DIVISION OF PATNA COMMISSIONERSHIP. *See* Questions.

DRINKING-WATER IN RURAL AREAS. *See* Questions.

DUKE, HON'BLE MR. F. W.

Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 282
Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . 258, 282
Replied to questions regarding the Agricultural Schools 251
Ditto ditto Case of prisoner Durga Charan Sanyal . 281
Ditto ditto Disturbances in the Champaran District . 280
Ditto ditto Midnapore case 257
Ditto ditto Publication of an incriminating article on the Tilak case 281
Ditto ditto Scarcity in Bihar 246
Ditto ditto Silk industry 251
Ditto ditto Visit of certain students to Chaibassa . . 282

DUKE, HON'BLE MR. F. W., appointed to Select Committee on—

Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 260
Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 259
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 221

E

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE *See* Questions.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIAN INDUSTRIES. *See* Questions.

EXPENDITURE ON PRIMARY SCHOOLS. *See* Questions.

F

FAMINE IN ORISSA. *See* Questions.

FAMINE IN THE NADIA AND IN THE 24-PARGANAS DISTRICTS. *See* Questions.

FAREWELL SPEECHES TO THE PRESIDENT 283-286

FEES AND FINES UNDER THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE ACT, 1871. *See* Questions.

PAGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT. *See* Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09

G

GAIT, HON'BLE MR. E. A., C.I.E.—

Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 173
Replied to questions regarding the Agricultural Experiments 26
Ditto ditto Appointments to Provincial Executive Service 2
Ditto ditto Appointments to the Provincial Executive Service . . . . . *ib.*
Ditto ditto Appointments to the Provincial Executive Service and the Subordinate Civil Service 3
Ditto ditto *Ardhodya jog* Committee and Volunteers . 11
Ditto ditto Case of Giridhari Lal Marwari . . . 81
Ditto ditto Covenanted Civil Service appointments . 194
Ditto ditto Death of Rajani Kanta Dass . . . 5
Ditto ditto Disturbances in Calcutta in October, 1907 . 6
Ditto ditto Division of Patna Commissionership . . 21
Ditto ditto Famine in Orissa 7
Ditto ditto Police Libel Case . . . . . *ib.*
Ditto ditto Prices of food-grains in Bihar . . . 10
Ditto ditto Scarcity in the Chota Nagpur Division . 3

GHOSE, HON'BLE BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA—

Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . . 12, 196, 204
Asked questions regarding the Agricultural Experiments . . . 26
Ditto ditto Agricultural Schools 251
Ditto ditto Babu Durga Charan Sanyal's Case . . 246
Ditto ditto Bhairab Valley Drainage Scheme . . . 256
Ditto ditto Charitable dispensaries in the Presidency Division 252
Ditto ditto Charitable dispensaries in the Sundarbans . . 255
Ditto ditto Chinese Carpenters 80
Ditto ditto Chinese shoe-makers 81
Ditto ditto Covenanted Civil Service appointments . . 194
Ditto ditto Creation of a separate Judgeship at Khulna . 23
Ditto ditto Drinking-water in rural areas 24, 251
Ditto ditto Expenditure in Primary Schools 255
Ditto ditto Government stationery 195
Ditto ditto Grants by Government to District Boards for improvement of water-supply 25
Ditto ditto Improvement of the Bhairab river . . . 24
Ditto ditto Industrial chemistry 250
Ditto ditto Jessore Drainage Scheme 24
Ditto ditto Kabuli Traders 81
Ditto ditto Law College 257
Ditto ditto Malaria in Midnapore and Bankura . . . 80
Ditto ditto Manufacture of Salt in Bengal 256
Ditto ditto Manufacture of Salt in the Bengal and Orissa Sea Coasts 80
Ditto ditto Overflow of the river Bodai 245
Ditto ditto Primary Education 256
Ditto ditto Primary Schools for boys 195
Ditto ditto Resources of District Boards 26
Ditto ditto Sibpur College 250
Ditto ditto Silk Industry . . . . . *ib.*
Ditto ditto Silting of the Alaipur Khal 23
Ditto ditto Village Sanitation 252
Ditto ditto Weaving School at Serampore 250
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 147
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . 230, 232, 235, 236, 240, 241
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 . . . . . 218, 276
Statement by, as to Anarchism 206

PAGE

GHOSH, HON'BLE BABU KALI PADA—

Asked questions regarding the Appointments to the Provincial Executive Service 2
Ditto ditto Appointments to the Provincial Executive Service and the Subordinate Civil Services . . . 2
Ditto ditto Case of Prisoner Durga Charan Sanyal . . . 281
Ditto ditto Disposal of fees and fines collected under the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871 (Ben. Act IV of 1871) 27
Ditto ditto Disturbances in the Champaran District . . 280
Ditto ditto Educational Service 26
Ditto ditto Head-masters of Government Schools . . . 7
Ditto ditto Irrigation Scheme in the Chota Nagpur Division . 3
Ditto ditto Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee . . 281
Ditto ditto Publication of an incriminating article on the Tilak case . . . . . *ib.*
Ditto ditto Scarcity in the Chota Nagpur Division . . . 3
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 142
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . . 230, 233
Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 259
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 . . . 216, 261, 262, 263, 265, 268, 269, 274
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . 15, 197, 199, 200, 203, 204

GHOSH, HON'BLE BABU KALI PADA appointed to Select Committee on—

Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 259
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 221
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 16

GORDON, HON'BLE MR. G., appointed to Select Committee on—

Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 16

GOSWAMI, HON'BLE RAI KISHORI LAL, BAHADUR—

Asked questions regarding the Central Weaving School in Serampore . . 210
Ditto ditto Compulsory retirement in Subordinate Judicial Service 23
Ditto ditto Kankinara Bomb Outrage 210
Ditto ditto Leave Rules of Subordinate Judicial Service . 22
Ditto ditto Pensionable service in Subordinate Judicial Service 23
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 132
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . 228, 230, 231, 234, 236
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 . . . . . 261, 263, 267, 269, 271-274
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 14

GOSWAMI, HON'BLE RAI KISHORI LAL, BAHADUR, appointed to Select Committee on—

Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 260
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908 208

GOVERNMENT STATIONERY. *See* Questions.

GRANTS BY GOVERNMENT TO DISTRICT BOARDS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF WATER-SUPPLY. *See* Questions.

GREER, HON'BLE MR. R. T., C.S.I.—

Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 260
Presided at meeting of 15th August, 1908 209

GREER, HON'BLE MR. R. T., appointed to Select Committee on—

Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908 208
Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 259
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 221

GRIEVANCES OF THE SUBORDINATE MEDICAL SERVICE. *See* Questions.

PAGE

H

HEAD-MASTERS OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS. *See* Questions.

HINDI CHAIR IN THE PRESIDENCY COLLEGE. *See* Questions.

I

IMPROVEMENT OF THE BHAIRAB RIVER. *See* Questions.

INDIAN LUNATIC ASYLUMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.
Leave to introduce 282
Introduced and read in Council 283
To be considered at next meeting . . . . . *ib.*

INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION. *See* Questions.

INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY. *See* Questions.

INGLIS, HON'BLE MR. W. A., C.S.I. —
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 166
Replied to questions regarding the Borai Canal project 28
Ditto ditto Damodar River dam 19
Ditto ditto Encouragement of Indian industries . . 22
Ditto ditto Irrigation Scheme in the Chota Nagpur Division 3
Ditto ditto Overflow of the River Bodai 245
Ditto ditto Silting of the Alaipur Khal 23
Ditto ditto Tolly's Nala and Rice trade 29

IRRIGATION SCHEME IN THE CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION. *See* Questions.

J

JESSORE DRAINAGE SCHEME. *See* Questions.

JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE. *See* Ghose.

JUDGMENTS of the COURTS. *See* Questions.

K

KABULI TRADERS. *See* Questions.

KALI PADA GHOSH. *See* Ghosh.

KANKINARA BOMB OUTRAGE *See* Questions.

L

LARMOUR, HON'BLE MR. F. A.—
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 84
Farewell speech by, ... 285

LAW COLLEGE. *See* Questions.

LEAVE RULES OF SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE. *See* Questions.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL (HON'BLE SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I.)—*President.*
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 185
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . 235, 286
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 200
Replied to farewell speech 286
Reply by the, to Statements as to Anarchism 206
Ruling of, as to motion lost 200
Statement by, welcoming new Members of Council 2
Suspended Rules of Business 196

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT. *See* Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill . . . 20

LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED TRAINING COLLEGE. *See* Questions.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS. *See* Indian Lunatic Asylums (Amendment) Bill, 1908.

PAGE

M

MACPHERSON, HON'BLE MR. W. C., C.S.I.—

Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 178
Calcutta Port (Amendment) Bill, 1908 196

MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR OF BURDWAN. *See* Burdwan.

MALARIA IN MIDNAPORE AND BANKURA. *See* Questions.

MANUFACTURE OF SALT IN BENGAL. *See* Questions.

MANUFACTURE OF SALT IN THE BENGAL AND ORISSA SEA COASTS. *See* Questions.

MEMBERS. *See* New Members.

MIDNAPUR CASE. *See* Questions

MINISTERIAL OFFICERS' SALARIES. *See* Questions

MINISTERIAL OFFICERS' SALARIES COMMITTEE. *See* Questions.

MOTOR-CARS FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. *See* Questions.

MURSHIDABAD, THE HON'BLE IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAIS-UD-DAULA AMIR-UL-UMARA NAWAB ASIF KADR SAIYID WASIF ALI MIRZA KHAN BAHADUR MAHABAT JANG, NAWAB BAHADUR OF—

Asked questions regarding the sale of unwholesome food in Calcutta . . 4
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 83
Farewell speech by, ... 283

N

NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD AMIR-UL-UMARA. *See* Murshidabad.

NEW MEMBERS—

Hon'ble Mr. C. E. A. W. Oldham (took his seat in Council on the 25th January, 1908) 1
Hon'ble Mr. F. A. Slacke, C.S.I. (took his seat in Council on the 25th January, 1908, and 28th November, 1908) 1, 277
Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bijay Chand Mahtab, Bahadur, of Burdwan (took his seat in Council on the 25th January, 1908) 1
Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad (took his seat in Council on the 25th January, 1908) . . . . . *ib.*
Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari (took his in Council on the 25th January, 1908) . . . . . *ib.*
Hon'ble Mr. F. A. Lamour (took his seat in Council on the 25th January, 1908) . . . . . *ib.*
Hon'ble Mr. E. W. Collin (took his seat in Council on the 8th February, 1908) 9
Hon'ble Mr. R. T. Greer, C.S.I. (took his seat in Council on the 4th April, 1908) 79
Hon'ble Mr. E. P. Chapman (took his seat in Council on the 4th April, 1908) . . . . . *ib.*
Hon'ble Mr. S. P. Sinha (took his seat in Council on the 11th July, 1908) 205
Hon'ble Mr. F. W. Duke (took his seat in Council on the 11th July, 1908) . . . . . *ib.*
Hon'ble Mr. W. H. H. Vincent (took his seat in Council on the 15th August, 1908) 209

Page

New Members—*contd.*

Hon'ble Mr. W. Brown (took his seat in Council on the 22nd August, 1908) 223
Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal (took his seat in Council on the 22nd August, 1908) . . . . . *ib.*
Hon'ble Mr. W. C. Macpherson, C.S.I. (took his seat in Council on the 28th November, 1908) 277
Hon'ble Mr. M. S. Das, C.I.E. (took his seat in Council on the 28th November, 1908) . . . . . *ib.*

Oldham, Hon'ble Mr. C. E. A. W.—

Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 . . . . . 80, 83, 180
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill . . 208, 224, 227, 228, 230 231, 234, 236-241
Bengal Repealing Bill, 1908 . . . . . 247, 257
Indian Lunatic Asylums (Amendment) Bill, 1908 282
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . 11, 16, 83, 196, 198, 200, 202 204
Replied to questions regarding the Application of income under the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871 . . . 196
Ditto ditto Bhairab Valley Drainage Scheme . . 256
Ditto ditto Charitable Dispensaries in the Presidency Division 252
Ditto ditto Charitable Dispensaries in the Sundarbans . 251
Ditto ditto Consumption of liquor 278
Ditto ditto Disposal of fees and fines collected under the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871 (Ben. Act IV of 1871) 27
Ditto ditto Drinking-water in rural areas . . . 24, 251
Ditto ditto Fees and fines under the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871 83
Ditto ditto Government Stationery 196
Ditto ditto Grants by Government to District Boards for improvement of water supply . . 25
Ditto ditto Grievances of the Subordinate Medical Service 28
Ditto ditto Improvement of the Bhairab River . . 24
Ditto ditto Jessore Drainage Scheme . . . . *ib*
Ditto ditto Location of the proposed Training College . 208
Ditto ditto Malaria in Midnapore and Bankura . . 80
Ditto ditto Manufacture of Salt in Bengal . . . 256
Ditto ditto Manufacture of Salt in the Bengal and Orissa Sea Coasts 80
Ditto ditto Ministerial Officers' salaries 4
Ditto ditto Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee . 281
Ditto ditto Motor-cars for Government Officials . . 194
Ditto ditto Resources of District Boards . . . 26
Ditto ditto Sale of unwholesome food in Calcutta . . 5
Ditto ditto Village Sanitation 252
Ditto ditto Water-works in Patna 10
Ditto ditto Weights and measures 4
Ditto ditto Working of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, 1895 174

Oldham, Hon'ble Mr. C. E. A. W., appointed to Select Committee on—

Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 260
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill 208
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 16

Overflow of the River Bodai. *See* Questions.

PAGE

P

PAL, HON'BLE BABU RADHA CHARAN—

Asked questions regarding the Alipore Reformatory School 211
Ditto ditto Berai Canal Project 28
Ditto ditto Calcutta beggars 6
Ditto ditto Carrying of Hindu corpses in the Dum-Dum Cantonment 211
Ditto ditto Comments in Sessions Courts on conduct of Police-officers 7
Ditto ditto Court Inspectors in the Calcutta Police Court . 29
Ditto ditto Death of Rajani Kanta Das 5
Ditto ditto Disturbances in Calcutta in October, 1907 . . *ib.*
Ditto ditto Disturbances in the Champaran district . . 280
Ditto ditto Famine in Orissa 7
Ditto ditto Famine in the Nadia and in the 24-Parganas districts 213
Ditto ditto Grievances of the Subordinate Medical Service . 27
Ditto ditto Midnapore case 257
Ditto ditto Police Libel Case 7
Ditto ditto State Technical scholarships 244
Ditto ditto Technical scholarship for Mining 245
Ditto ditto Tolly's Nala and Rice trade 29
Ditto ditto Visit of certain students to Chaibassa . . . 282
Ditto ditto Whipping sentences in the Calcutta Police Court 6
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 153
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . 230, 232
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . . 13, 198, 202 204

PENSIONABLE SERVICE IN SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE. *See* QUESTIONS.

POLICE LIBEL CASE. *See* QUESTIONS.

PRASAD, HON'BLE BABU GAJADHAR—

Asked questions regarding the Appointment of Subordinate Judges . . 10
Ditto ditto Bihar School of Engineering 4
Ditto ditto Consumption of liquor 278
Ditto ditto Disturbaces in the Champaran district . . 280
Ditto ditto Hindi Chair on the Presidency College . . 224
Ditto ditto Location of the proposed Training College . . 208
Ditto ditto Ministerial Officers' salaries . . . 4
Ditto ditto Prices of food-grains in Bihar 10
Ditto ditto Scarcity in Bihar 246
Ditto ditto Water-works in Patna 10
Ditto ditto Weights and measures 4
Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 260
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 122
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . 226, 231, 238
Farewell speech by 284
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 203
Statement as to Anarchism 206

PRASAD, HON'BLE BABU GAJADHAR, appointed to Select Committee on—

Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 16

PRESIDENT. *See* Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal; Greer, Hon'ble R. T.

PRIMARY EDUCATION. *See* Questions.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR BOYS. *See* Questions.

PAGE

PRICES OF FOOD GRAINS IN BEHAR. *See* Questions.

PUBLICATION OF AN INCRIMINATING ARTICLE ON THE TILAK CASE. *See* Questions.

PURI LODGING-HOUSE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908—

Leave to introduce 11
Introduced and read in Council 16
Referred to Select Committee . . . . . *ib.*
Report of Select Committee presented 88
Ditto ditto considered 196
Amendments proposed and adopted 200, 202, 203
Ditto ditto negatived 196 201
Amendments withdrawn 201, 202
Bill passed 204

Q

QUESTIONS ASKED IN COUNCIL—

Agricultural experiments 26
Agricultural Schools 251
Alipore Reformatory School 211
Application of income under the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871 195
Appointment of Subordinate Judges 10
Appointments to the Provincial Executive Service 2
Appointments to the Provincial Subordinate Service . . . . . *ib.*
Ardhodya Jog Committee and Volunteers 11
Babu Durga Charan Sanyal's case 246
Berai Canal Project 28
Bhairab Valley Drainage Scheme 266
Bihar School of Engineering 4
Calcutta beggars 6
Carrying of Hindu corpses in the Dum-Dum Cantonment 211
Case of Giridhari Lal Marwari 81
Case of prisoner Durga Charan Sanyal 281
Central Weaving School in Serampore 210
Charitable dispensaries in the Presidency Division 252
Ditto ditto Sundarbans 255
Chinese Carpenters 80
Chinese Shoe-makers 81
Classes in industrial chemistry in the Sibpur College 20
Comments in Sessions Courts on conduct of police-officers 7
Comments in the Press with reference to criticisms of the Police in judgments of the Courts 18
Compulsory retirement in Subordinate Judicial Service 23
Consumption of liquor 278
Court Inspectors in the Calcutta Police Court 29
Covenanted Civil Service appointments 194
Creation of a separate Judgeship at Khulna 28
Criminal Court sitting at night 30
Damodar River Dam 18
Disposal of fees and fines collected under the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871 (Ben. Act IV of 1871) 27
Disturbances in Calcutta in October, 1907 5
Disturbances in the Champaran district 280
Division of Patna Commissionership 21
Drinking-water in rural areas 24, 251
Educational Service 75
Encouragement of Indian Industries 22
Expenditure on Primary Schools 280
Famine in Orissa 7
Famine in the Nadia and in the 24-Parganas districts 219

Page

QUESTIONS ASKED IN COUNCIL—*concld.*

Fees and fines under the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871 82
Government stationery 195
Grants by Government to District Boards for improvement of water-supply . 25
Grievances of the Subordinate Medical Service 27
Head-masters of Government Schools 27
Hindi Chair in the Presidency College 224
Improvement of the Bhairab River 24
Industrial and technical education 21
Industrial Chemistry 250
Irrigation Scheme in the Chota Nagpur Division 8
Jessore Drainage Scheme 24
Kabuli Traders 81
Kankinara Bomb Outrage 210
Law College 257
Leave Rules of Subordinate Judicial Service 22
Location of the proposed Training College 208
Malaria in Midnapore and Bankura 80
Manufacture of Salt in Bengal 256
Manufacture of Salt in the Bengal and Orissa Sea Coasts 80
Midnapur Case 257
Ministerial Officers' salaries 4
Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee 281
Motor-cars for Government Officials 194
Overflow of the River Bodai 245
Pensionable service in Subordinate Judicial Service 23
Police libel case 7
Prices of food-grains in Bihar 10
Primary education 256
Primary Schools for boys 195
Publication of an incriminating article on the Tilak case 181
Regarding death of Rajani Kanta Das 5
Removal of Sibpur College to Ranchi 20
Resources of District Boards 23
Sale of unwholesome food in Calcutta 4
Scarcity in Bihar 246
Scarcity in the Chota Nagpur Division 3
Sibpur College 250
Silk industry 250
Silting of the Alaipur Khal 93
State Technical Scholarships 244
Technical Instruction 21
Technical scholarships for mining 245
Testing of country manufacturers 19
Tolly's Nala and rice trade 29
Village Sanitation 253
Visit of certain students to Chaibassa 282
Water-works in Patna 10
Weaving School at Serampore 250
Weights and measures 4
Whipping sentences in the Calcutta Police Court 6
Working of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, 1895 194

R

RADHA CHARAN PAL. *See* Pal.

REMOVAL OF SIBPUR COLLEGE TO RANCHI. *See* Questions.

REPEALING BILL, 1908. *See* Sambalpur (Evidence) Bill, 1908; Bengal Repealing Bill.

Page

RESOURCES OF DISTRICT BOARDS. *See* Questions.

RULES OF BUSINESS. Suspension of 196

S

SALE OF UNWHOLESOME FOOD IN CALCUTTA. *See* Questions.

SAMBALPUR (EVIDENCE) BILL, 1908.

Leave to introduce 8
Introduced and read in Council . . . . . *ib.*
Referred to Select Committee . . . . . *ib.*
Report of Select Committee presented 30
Ditto ditto considered 82, 83
Clauses of the Bill considered 83
Bill passed . . . . . *ib.*

SARBADHIKARI, THE HON'BLE BABU DEBA PRASAD—

Asked questions regarding the Application of income under the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871 195
Ditto ditto *Ardhodya Jog* Committee and Volunteers . 11
Ditto ditto Classes in industrial chemistry in the Sibpur College 20
Ditto ditto Comments in the Press with reference to criticisms of the police in judgments of the Courts 18
Ditto ditto Damodar River dam 18
Ditto ditto Division of Patna Commissionership . 21
Ditto ditto Encouragement of Indian industries . . . 22
Ditto ditto Industral and technical education . 21
Ditto ditto Removal of Sibpur College to Ranchi . . 20
Ditto ditto Technical instruction 21
Ditto ditto Testing of country manufactures . . 19
Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 86
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . 230, 237
Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . 218, 268
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . . . 198, 200-202

SARBADHIKARI, HON'BLE BABU DEBA PRASAD, appointed to Select Committee on—

Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 . . . 259
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 221

SCARCITY IN BIHAR. *See* Questions.

SCARCITY IN THE CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION. *See* Questions.

SELECT COMMITTEES.

Title of Bill.	Appointed and supplemented.	Report presented.	Report considered
Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 ...	260	282	.....
Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill ...	208	224	224
Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908	259, 262	.....	.....
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908	221	247	260
Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908	16	83	196
Sambalpur (Evidence) Bill, 1908	8	30	83

SIBPUR COLLEGE. *See* Questions.

SILK INDUSTRY. *See* Questions.

SILTING OF THE ALAIPUR KHAL. *See* Questions.

PAGE

SLACKE, HON'BLE MR. F. A., C.S.I., appointed to Select Committee on—

Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1908 282

STATE TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS. *See* Questions.

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT. *See* Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

STEVENFEILD, HON'BLE MR. H. C.—

Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 168
Repealing Bill, 1908 . . . . . 8, 11
Replied to questions regarding the Alipore Reformatory School 211
Ditto ditto Babu Durga Charan Sanayal's case . . 246
Ditto ditto Bihar School of Engineering . . . 4
Ditto ditto Calcutta beggars 6
Ditto ditto Carrying of Hindu Corpses in the Dum-Dum Cantonment 211
Ditto ditto Central Weaving School at Serampore . . 210
Ditto ditto Chinese Carpenters 80
Ditto ditto Chinese Shoe-makers 81
Ditto ditto Classes in Industrial Chemistry in the Sibpur College 20
Ditto ditto Comments in Sessions Courts on conduct of Police Officers 7
Ditto ditto Comments in the Press with reference to Criticisms of the Police in judgments of the Court 18
Ditto ditto Compulsory retirement in Subordinate Judicial Service 23
Ditto ditto Court Inspectors in the Calcutta Police Court 30
Ditto ditto Creation of a separate Judgeship at Khulna 23
Ditto ditto Criminal Courts sitting at night . . . 30
Ditto ditto Educational Service 27
Ditto ditto Expenditure on Primary Schools . . . 255
Ditto ditto Famine in the Nadia and in the 24-Parganas districts 21
Ditto ditto Head-masters of Government Schools . . 27
Ditto ditto Hindi Chair in the Presidency College . 214
Ditto ditto Industrial and Technical Education . 21
Ditto ditto Industrial Chemistry 250
Ditto ditto Kabuli Traders 81
Ditto ditto Law College 257
Ditto ditto Leave rules of Subordinate Judicial Service 22
Ditto ditto Location of the proposed Training College . 208
Ditto ditto Pensionable Service in Subordinate Judicial Service 23
Ditto ditto Primary Education 250
Ditto ditto Primary Schools for boys 195
Ditto ditto Removal of Sibpur College to Ranchi . . 26
Ditto ditto Sibpur College 250
Ditto ditto State technical scholarships 244
Ditto ditto Technical instruction 21
Ditto ditto Technical scholarships for mining . . 245
Ditto ditto Testing of country mannufactures . . 19
Ditto ditto Weaving School at Serampore . . . 250
Sambalpur (Evidence) Bill, 1908 . . . . . 30, 82

STEVENFEILD, HON'BLE MR. H. C., appointed to Select Committee on—

Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Bill, 1908 259
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 221
Repealing Bill, 1908 8

PAGE

SUTHERLAND, THE HON'BLE MR. G. H.—

Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09 139

T

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION. *See* Questions.

TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MINING. *See* Questions.

TESTING OF COUNTRY MANUFACTURES. *See* Questions.

TOLLY'S NALA AND RICE TRADE. *See* Questions.

V

VILLAGE SANITATION. *See* Questions

VINCENT, MR. W. H. H.—

Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1907 213
Chota Nagpur Tenancy and Settlement Bill, 1908 . . . . . 213, 119, 231
Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 . . . . . 247, 260, 261, 262, 266, 268-274

VINCENT, HON'BLE MR. W. H. H., appointed to Select Committee on—

Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, 1908 221

VISIT OF CERTAIN STUDENTS TO CHAIBASSA. *See* Questions.

W

WATER-WORKS IN PATNA *See* Questions

WEAVING SCHOOL AT SERAMPORE. *See* Questions.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES. *See* Questions.

WHIPPING SENTENCES IN THE CALCUTTA POLICE COURT. *See* Questions.

WORKING OF THE BENGAL SANITARY DRAINAGE ACT, 1895. *See* Questions.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 25th January, 1908, at 1 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. P. O'KINEALY, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. GAIT, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. G. GORDON.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, Kt.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAIS-UD-DOWLA AMIR-UL-OMRAH NAWAB ASEF KUDR SYED WASIF ALI MEERZA KHAN BAHADUR MAHABUT JUNG, NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. SUTHERLAND.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, the Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM, the Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR OF BURDWAN, the Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD, the Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI and the Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR, took their seats in Council.

[*The President ; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh ; Mr. Gait.*]

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT said:—"We have with us this morning several new Members of Council; and I desire in my own name and on behalf of my colleagues in Council to extend to them a very hearty welcome, and to express the hope that their tenure of office among us may be both useful and happy."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked:—

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds on which the nomination, made last year by the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division, of Babu Sailajpada Mukerjee as the best eligible candidate for an appointment in the Provincial Executive Service was not accepted by the Government, although in Government Resolution No. 5649A, dated the 26th December, 1904, on the subject of recruitment of the Executive Branch of the Provincial Civil Service, it is laid down that ordinarily the Lieutenant-Governor will appoint the candidate whom the Commissioner nominates as the first on the list?

(*b*) Is it not the declared policy of the Government that the Commissioner's nomination should not be vetoed except under special circumstances? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what special circumstances existed in the case above referred to?

(*c*) Is the Government aware of the fact that the candidate nominated by the Commissioner, apart from his qualifications, which were considered to be the best by the Commissioner amongst all the candidates who had appeared before him, is a member of a family domiciled in Chota Nagpur for more than four generations?

(*d*) Can it be a fact that because the Commissioner's nominee was a Bengali he was superseded by some other candidate?

The Hon'ble MR GAIT replied:—

"(*a*) The orders in regard to recommendations by Commissioners for the Provincial Service are that the Commissioner shall nominate two candidates for each appointment and give the names of these candidates in order of preference; further, that he will report in regard to all the other names submitted by Collectors whether he regards them as eligible for office or not. The Lieutenant-Governor reserves to himself the right of selection from amongst those nominated. Ordinarily the first on the list would be appointed; but special circumstances may require the appointment of another candidate. These special circumstances may be local or they may be caused by the question of the distribution of appointments throughout the province.

"(*b*) *c*) (*a*) The Government must decline to publish the special reasons which lead to any candidate not receiving an appointment. To do so would be to establish a precedent which would be intolerable."

APPOINTMENTS TO THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE AND THE SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICES.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked:—

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many appointments in the Provincial Executive Service have, since the introduction of the nomination system, been given to the Bengalis whose families have been domiciled in the Division of Orissa from a period anterior to British rule in that part of the country?

(*b*) Is it not a fact that some appointments in the said service, as also in the Subordinate Civil Service, have been given to under-graduates in the Division of Orissa, but not a single domiciled Bengali under-graduate has been nominated to such appointments?

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Mr. Gait; Mr. Inglis.*]

(*c*) In view of the large domiciled Bengali population in Orissa, and their position and influence, does the Government consider that their claims in the matter of these appointments have hitherto been duly considered?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

"(*a*) The system of appointment by nomination was introduced only in 1905. Since then out of seven persons appointed to the Provincial Executive Service from Orissa, three have been Bengalis and four Uriyas. The three Bengalis were domiciled in Orissa; but I cannot say if their ancestors were there before the commencement of British Rule.

"(*b*) Yes.

"(*c*) Their claims have received ample consideration."

SCARCITY IN THE CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked:—

(*a*) Is the Government aware that food-grains in the Division of Chota Nagpur, especially in the districts of Hazaribagh and Ranchi, are now selling at nearly double the ordinary prices, and that a famine is apprehended in that Division?

(*b*) In view of the above fact, does not the Government consider it necessary to start relief operations in such parts of the Division as have been most affected; and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state the nature and extent of such operations, and how much money has been allotted for the purpose?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

"(*a*) Government is aware that the prices of food-grains in the Chota Nagpur Division are high; but there is no famine at present. As a matter of fact, the Engineers cannot even get the labour which they require for ordinary road works, etc.

"(*b*) Arrangements have been made for famine relief operations, and relief works will be opened should necessity arise. But the time has not yet come, and it may be hoped that it will not come at all, for a famine campaign. *Takavi* loans are being given freely. The allotments already made for this purpose to the several districts for the current financial year, *i.e.*, up to the 31st March next, are as follows:—

District.					Rs
Hazaribagh	...	...	...	...	42,100
Ranchi	...	...	...	...	25,500
Palamau	...	...	...	...	1,14,500
Manbhum	...	...	...	...	26,500
Singhbhum	...	...	...	...	11,100
				Total	2,20,000"

IRRIGATION SCHEME IN THE CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked:—

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the nature of the recommendation made by the Executive Engineer, Babu Saroda Sunder Pal, who was deputed some time ago to make a preliminary inquiry about the irrigation scheme in the Division of Chota Nagpur?

(*b*) Does the Government intend to carry out the scheme (if any) recommended by the said Executive Engineer?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied :—

"In the spring of 1906 Babu Saroda Sunder Pal, Executive Engineer, investigated a proposed irrigation scheme from the Karo river in the Ranchi district of Chota Nagpur. This is apparently the scheme referred to by the

[*Mr. Inglis; Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Mr. Oldham; Mr. Streatfeild; the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.*]

Hon'ble Member. The Engineer's inquiries and survey showed that the area of land which could be irrigated was considerably less than had been at first assumed, while the cost of the works would be great and disproportionate to the benefit. It is not proposed to proceed with this scheme. The services of the Executive Engineer were subsequently placed at the disposal of the Commissioner for further inquiries into the possibilities of irrigation in the division."

MINISTERIAL OFFICERS' SALARIES.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee has submitted its final report? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay it on the table?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"The Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee have submitted their report, and it has been forwarded to the Government of India with the recommendations of this Government. As the matter is still under the consideration of the Government of India, the Lieutenant-Governor regrets he is unable to lay the report upon the table."

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said :—

People are put to great inconvenience by the diversity of the weights and measures used in the Provinces of Bihar and Bengal. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it considers it expedient to take steps to secure uniformity of weights and measures, at least in those towns of these provinces where the Municipal Act is in force?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"This question has already received the full consideration of Government, and it has been decided, with the consent of the Government of India, to amend the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, so as to take permissive powers for Commissioners of Municipalities at their discretion to enforce the use of Government standards of weights and measures in Municipal areas."

BIHAR SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said :—

Bihar is backward in point of technical education. The present Bihar School of Engineering is housed in a big and commodious building. The raising of the status of the School would necessitate only a small addition to its present staff. Such being the facts, will it please the Government to consider the expediency of raising the Bihar School of Engineering to the status of a College?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"It is hoped that the Sibpur Engineering College will shortly be removed to Ranchi. This site will be in all respects as favourable for Bihari students as for students from the rest of Bengal. The Lieutenant-Governor, as at present advised, does not consider that there is room for a second Engineering College in this Province. It would not be possible to have another College equally efficient with the College now situated at Sibpur."

SALE OF UNWHOLESOME FOOD IN CALCUTTA.

The Hon'ble the NAWAB BAHADUR of Murshidabad asked :—

Is the Government aware that the sale of unwholesome food by itinerant vendors and keepers of eating-houses is a growing nuisance in Calcutta and has in some cases been attended with serious consequences?

[*The Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad; Mr. Oldham; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Gait.*]

And, if so, will the Government be pleased to state if it thinks it necessary to take any, and what, steps in the matter, with a view to stop or minimise the evil?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"This is a matter for the Health Officer and Chairman of the Corporation to deal with in the first instance. The Chairman recently submitted to Government certain draft by-laws under sections 559 (*41*) and 561 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, framed by the Corporation with a view to securing the efficient inspection and sanitary regulation of shops in which articles of human food are kept or sold. These have been approved by Government and published in the Calcutta Gazette under Notification No. 85M, dated the 13th instant. The Hon'ble Member's attention is also invited to sections 502 and 503 of the Act. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that the powers already vested in the Chairman by the provisions of the law are sufficient, if properly exercised, to stop the evil referred to in the question."

REGARDING DEATH OF RAJANI KANTA DASS.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the proceedings in the Coroner's Court in connection with the inquest over the body of one Rajani Kanta Dass, who died from the injuries he had received during the disturbances in Calcutta in October last, and to the verdict of the said Court, as reported in the papers, ascribing his death to "some parawalla unknown?"

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what action the Government has taken to find out the offender in the above case?

(*c*) Is it the case that a petition has been submitted to the Government by the mother of the deceased, who was the sole bread-winner of his family, on behalf of herself, her widowed daughter-in-law and her orphan grand-child, for the grant of a suitable compensation to them? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what orders have been passed, or are intended to be passed, upon it?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied:—

"(*a*) The attention of Government has been drawn to the verdict of the Coroner's Jury.

"(*b*) Inquiries have been made; but it has been found impossible to trace the constable who is alleged to have struck the deceased. There was nothing to identify him beyond the statement made by the deceased. The latter at first stated that he could not describe the constable; but in his dying deposition he, for the first time, stated that the constable had a white beard, and added that this was all that he could say. The occurrence took place according to one account on the 2nd of October, and according to another on the 3rd. Death resulted from 'tetanus ensuing on a scalp wound inflicted with a *lathi* by a *paharawalla*.' The deceased went about his ordinary work for nearly a fortnight before he became ill, and the matter assumed a serious aspect.

"(*c*) A petition has recently been submitted to Government which is still under consideration."

DISTURBANCES IN CALCUTTA IN OCTOBER, 1907.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

(*a*) Is it not the case that, in view of the great dissatisfaction and alarm caused by the published reports regarding the conduct of the Police in connection with the disturbances in Calcutta in October last, some representative citizens of Calcutta approached His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor with a prayer for the appointment of a United Commission, consisting of official and non-official gentlemen, to inquire into the allegations made against the Police and that the same prayer was also repeated in certain organs of Indian public opinion?

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Gait; Mr. Streatfeild.*]

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds on which it was decided to entrust the inquiry to a single official instead of to a mixed Commission as prayed for?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the depositions of all the witnesses examined by Mr. Weston were not published?

(*d*) With reference to the statement made in the Government Resolution that the Commissioner of Police was anxious to punish any officers in respect of whom there would be sufficient evidence of misconduct, will the Government be pleased to state what action the Commissioner of Police has taken in this direction? Have any policemen been departmentally punished? If so, in what way?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied:—

"(*a*) Yes.

"(*b*) The appointment of a mixed Commission would have been a very unusual course; and there did not appear to be sufficient reason for departing from the usual practice of entrusting the inquiry to an officer of Government.

"(*c*) The depositions of the witnesses examined by Mr. Weston were not published with the Government Resolution and Mr. Weston's Report, partly because they were bulky and partly because they had not been printed in time. A copy of these depositions has been handed to the Hon'ble Member and copies will be placed in the Press Room.

"(*d*) Regular proceedings have been drawn up against one Sub-Inspector, three Head-Constables, and thirty-five Constables for assault, neglect of duty in not preventing certain shops from being rifled by the mob, for leaving their beats without good and proper excuse, and for failing to report to their superior officers unlawful acts committed within their sight or to their knowledge. Proceedings have also been drawn up against the Head-Constable referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Mr. Weston's Report. The written defence of these police officers has been received, but final orders have not yet been passed."

CALCUTTA BEGGARS.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

(*a*) Is the Government aware that large numbers of poor and decrepit persons are sentenced to rigorous imprisonment on the charge of begging for alms in the streets of Calcutta?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether it will not be advisable to establish an asylum, on the model of the Government Workhouse for European vagrants, as a refuge for these destitute and decrepit persons?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The question of the best method of dealing with the mendicants who infest the streets of Calcutta is a very difficult one. It is receiving the careful consideration of Government; but no definite conclusion has yet been arrived at."

WHIPPING SENTENCES IN THE CALCUTTA POLICE COURT.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons that have been sentenced to whipping in the Calcutta Police Courts during the years 1905, 1906 and 1907, respectively?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The numbers are—

1905	...	...	...	...	375
1906	...	...	...	...	321
1907	...	...	...	...	402"

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Gait; Mr. Streatfeild.*]

POLICE LIBEL CASE.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state what expenses it has to incur and the liabilities it has to meet in connection with the suits instituted in the High Court, by certain Officers of the Calcutta Police, against the "Indian Daily News" and other newspapers?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

"The account has not yet been finally settled. The amount paid up to date is between Rs. 16,000 and Rs. 17,000.

COMMENTS IN SESSIONS COURTS ON CONDUCT OF POLICE OFFICERS.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

Is it the case, as stated in the newspapers, that the Government of Bengal addressed a communication to the Hon'ble High Court suggesting an alteration in the methods of comments by Sessions Judges on the conduct of the investigating police? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the letter of the Government addressed to the High Court, and the reply of the High Court thereto?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"The correspondence referred to is laid on the table."

FAMINE IN ORISSA.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of persons that are now receiving gratuitous relief, and the number of persons employed on relief works, and the total amount that has been spent by the Government for each of these purposes, in each of the affected districts of Orissa?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if anything is being done to assist respectable poor females who will not come forward to ask for relief owing to restrictions of the Zenana and the caste system?

(*c*) Is it a fact that there has been a large number of deaths from cholera, bowel complaints and other causes directly connected with want of food or bad food?

(*d*) What wages are being offered at test works started by the Government? Are the wages that are being offered sufficient for the famine-stricken people to live upon in these times, when famine prices are ruling in the market? If not, will the Government be graciously pleased to increase the rate of these wages?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied :—

"(*a*) The number of persons now receiving gratuitous relief and employed on test works are as follows :—

District.	Gratuitous relief.	Employed on test works.	REMARKS.
Cuttack	7,914	398*	*Excludes P. W. D. test works for which figures are not available.
Balasore	3,300	224	
Puri	593	1,461	

"The expenditure in Cuttack up to the 18th January was, on test works Rs. 566-3, and on gratuitous relief Rs 27,979. In Balasore, Rs. 4,000 has been spent on gratuitous relief and Rs. 1,250 on test works. This is exclusive of an expenditure on gratuitous relief of Rs. 1,681 in Cuttack and Rs. 3,200 in Balasore from private subscriptions, and of Rs. 4,000 in Cuttack from Babu

Joy Gobind Law's Fund. Information has not yet been received as to the expenditure in Puri.

"(*b*) The Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to Article 174 (*f*) of the Bengal Famine Code. Lists of persons entitled to gratuitous relief under that article have been carefully prepared.

"(*c*) Cholera broke out in epidemic form in Cuttack about the time of the floods, but it is now disappearing.

"(*d*) The wages on test works are regulated by the provisions of Article 163 (page 51) and Form C-VI (page 165) of the Famine Code."

THE REPEALING BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD moved for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Central Provinces Laws Act, 1879, so far as it applies to the district of Sambalpur. He said:—

"By this Act sections 184, 185 and 189 of the Code of Civil Procedure were repealed, and for sections 182, 190 and 191 of the Code three new sections were substituted. In accordance with the provisions of these sections the full record of evidence supplemented by a memorandum written by the Judge, which is prescribed by the Code of Civil Procedure, is, as regards civil suits tried in Sambalpur, replaced by a note of the essential points of the evidence made by the Judge in his own language or in English.

"The Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court have pointed out that, since the district of Sambalpur has been transferred to Bengal, there is no reason for the continuance of a special procedure for that district alone.

"The present Bill, if passed into law, will bring the district of Sambalpur into line with the other districts of Bengal in regard to the recording *in extenso* of evidence in the Civil Courts.

"As drafted it contains only two sections, but it will probably be necessary to add a third section in order to revive sections 184, 185 and 189 of the Code of Civil Procedure."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council.

The motion was put and agreed to, and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD also moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Gordon, the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh and the Mover, with instructions to report at the next meeting of Council.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned to Saturday, the 8th February, 1908.

CALCUTTA;
The 4th February, 1908.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

B. S. Press—30-1-1908—12747—300—J. A. M.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 8th February, 1908, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. P. O'KINEALY, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. GAIT, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. G. GORDON.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, Kt.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. SUTHERLAND.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR, OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

NEW MEMBER.

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN took his seat in Council.

[*Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Mr. Gait; Mr. Oldham.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PRICES OF FOOD-GRAINS IN BIHAR.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked:—

Is the Government aware that the prices of food-grains are abnormally high in Bihar, and that the people of the province are in distress? If so, will it please the Government to state whether it desires to take any measures for the relief of the people?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied:—

"Government is aware that the prices of food-grains in Bihar are high, but there is no famine anywhere at present. *Takavi* loans are being given freely in districts where they are needed, and arrangements have been made for relief operations. These will be commenced without delay should the necessity arise."

WATER-WORKS IN PATNA.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said:—

Patna is the chief town of Bihar, and is in Bengal second only to Calcutta. It is the most important educational and commercial centre in Bihar, and the people of the entire province are deeply interested in its sanitation.

It is noted for its insanitary condition, and has consequently suffered from plague and other epidemics more than any other town in the province. There is no good drinking water-supply in the city.

The Patna Municipality is too poor to pay even the interest of any loan which may be raised for the water-supply.

It is a fortunate circumstance that the Municipality has, through the liberality of the Government and the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, secured one lakh of rupees for municipal purposes.

In view of these facts, will it please the Government to consider the expediency of making a grant sufficient for the construction of water-works in Patna?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied—

"The charges for projects of local water-supply should ordinarily be met from local resources. Government cannot be expected to do more than make contributions from the general revenues to supplement local subscriptions.

"The most recent estimate for a scheme of water-supply for the city of Patna, made in the year 1900 by the Sanitary Engineer, amounted to about 20 lakhs of rupees, and the annual maintenance charges were estimated at Rs. 40,000. It is out of the question that Government should make a grant of the whole cost. Moreover, the Lieutenant-Governor is advised that the Municipality is not in a position to meet even the maintenance charges of such a scheme."

APPOINTMENT OF SUBORDINATE JUDGES.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked:—

In view of the fact that even the highest Courts of the country get some of their Judges from the Bar, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing every year one or two pleaders of at least 15 years' standing and tested ability to the post of Subordinate Judge?

[*Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari; Mr. Gait; Mr. Oldham.*]

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The Hon'ble Member appears to have overlooked the fact that appointments to the post of Subordinate Judge are at present made by the promotion of Munsiffs, and that Munsiffs have invariably been practising lawyers. The proposal of the Hon'ble Member would greatly retard the promotion of this very competent and deserving body of officers."

ARDHODYA JOG COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to organizations started in Calcutta and its suburbs, known as the *Ardhodya Jog* Committee and the *Ardhodya Jog* Volunteers, and has the Government any information regarding their work in connection with the recent unusual influx of pilgrims?

(*b*) Is it not a fact that these organizations were highly useful in advising, assisting and guiding pilgrims, in giving medical and other relief, and generally in making things considerably easier for the pilgrims, the Police and the Municipality?

(*c*) Will it please the Government to indicate if it approves of such work, and, if the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of encouraging such organizations by such marks of approval as it may think fit?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied:—

"(*a*) The Government have received the report of the Commissioner of Police regarding the work of the *Ardhodya Jog* Committee and *Ardhodya Jog* Volunteers in connection with the recent influx of pilgrims. The Lieutenant-Governor also went round, and himself inspected the arrangements made for dealing with the crowds.

"(*b*) The report shows, and the impression on the Lieutenant-Governor's mind was, that these organizations worked cordially with the police and were very highly useful in the manner indicated in the question.

"(*c*) Mr. Halliday, with the full approval of Government, has already written a letter of thanks for the services rendered."

THE REPEALING BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD said:—"The Select Committee on the Bill to repeal the Central Provinces Laws Act, 1879, so far as it applies to the district of Sambalpur, has been unable to comply with the instructions of Council and submit its report to-day.

"The only point of any difficulty in connection with the Bill is the question of reviving sections 184, 185 and 189 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

"On this point it has been necessary to consult the High Court, and as the opinion of the Hon'ble Judges has not yet been received, the Select Committee has not been able to draw up its Report."

THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871. He said:—

"I move, Sir, for the leave of this Council to introduce a Bill to further amend the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871 (Ben. Act IV of 1871).

"The Bill is a short and simple one. Its chief objects are to provide further safeguards against overcrowding in lodging-houses; to give the Local Government power to increase the fees for licenses for the reception of lodgers

with a view to securing the funds necessary for the proper sanitation of the towns and places to which the Act applies; to render the inspection of lodging-houses more practicable; and to remove a few minor defects in the existing Act which the practical working of the law has disclosed.

"The reasons for the several changes proposed are explained in the Notes on Clauses appended to the Bill."

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"This is a small measure and it does not directly affect the division I represent. But it affects the entire Hindu community of these provinces, for it should be remembered that though on the face of it, it relates to Puri, by virtue of the extension of Acts of 1879 and 1884, it may affect all places of pilgrimage, and is therefore deserving of careful consideration.

"I must say that I am very conservative as regards such changes in the law as may interfere with the private lives and religious observances of individuals. The welfare of the community may often require such interference, but it should be very sparingly used. I am reluctant to support any such measure without the strongest reasons. I am sorry to say I can find no such reasons for the changes proposed.

"The main change proposed is to make every Panda come under the definition of a 'lodging house-keeper'. The pilgrims, as a rule, are taken care of by their Pandas, who are always apparently paid for their priestly offices, but the care taken by the Panda is also a consideration for these payments. Poor, much-abused Pandas, it should not be forgotten, have been of great service to the Hindu community from time immemorial. Without their help and care in pre-British days, and even during, British times, pilgrimage would have been all but impossible. All respectable Pandas—all priests of European or Asiatic countries—would take it as an indignity to be obliged to take out licenses as lodging house-keepers and for their own houses. The position and influence of these priestly officers of Hindu Shrines, is always underestimated because they have no newspapers and hold no public meetings.

"There is another very serious matter. Under the old Act, the power to inspect lodging-houses was to be exercised at any reasonable time. The word 'reasonable' has proved disagreeable to the framers of this Bill. But having regard to the fact that nearly three-fourths of the pilgrims are women, and many of them *purdanashin* ladies, the framers of the old Act were certainly wise in putting in the word 'reasonable,' and I cannot congratulate the framers of this Bill on their objection to reasonableness.

"It will be now possible for an officer with shoes on to go at night into rooms not strictly occupied by females, but where men and women related to one another might be obliged to live for a day or two, and go into cook-rooms when food is being cooked.

"Then, again, all persons authorized to inspect have been made public officers for the purpose of making Pandas and pilgrims amenable to the Penal Code for what may be considered obstruction. I can only hope that poor, helpless Hindu female pilgrims may not be harassed by petty sanitary officers and peons.

"There is also a small clause which adds the word 'day' before night in section 7. It is apparently very harmless but really it is a very serious change. Pilgrims may often go and rest at the Panda's house during the day time without actually lodging there. For such rest the Panda will have to pay Rs. 2 per head, which of course he will realize from the pilgrims and be liable to punishment for breach of any rule of real or fansied utility that may be imposed.

'Again, it appears to me that the old Legislators had more regard for reasonableness when after mature consideration they omitted the word 'day'.

"I must also say that the raising of the license fee from 8 annas per head to 2 rupees seems unreasonable.

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

"Lastly, the penalty clauses have been made three times more severe. In the original Act, there were two penalty clauses for the same offence; one under section 7 which made a lodging house-keeper liable to a fine of Rs. 2 for every inmate in excess of the prescribed number, and also under section 17 to an additional fine of Rs. 50. This double punishment I cannot understand. Now, instead of removing the anomaly, it is proposed only to increase the fine of Rs. 2 to Rs. 5.

"Your Honour—Interference with the priestly classes and the pilgrims of India should be sparingly exercised. There is a proposal, I understand, at the instance of philanthropic Indian reformers to make the Mohunts of religious institutions submit accounts to the District Judge. The Government under-estimates the power and influence of Mohunts, Sanyasis and priests. The old Hindu law-givers forbade the king to interfere with these classes with very good reason. They are more powerful than all the princes, the councillors, the editors and the orators of India. The Government should not alienate these classes.

"Let the Hindus alone in the exercise of their religious practices. Make water-works, build rest-houses, prevent adulteration of food, provide medical help, protect them from thieves and robbers, and you will be blessed; but do not prescribe rules which may be the causes of unnecessary annoyance and harassment.

"Your Honour—I regret I cannot support this measure."

The Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal said:—"The Puri Lodging-house Act is one of those beneficient measures which have been introduced with a humane object by the Government of the time, and I am glad that the little amendments which are now intended to be made in the Act have been brought forward in this Council in the same spirit. Although we may not agree with all the amendments proposed, we must at the same time appreciate the motive which has prompted the Government to secure the welfare and well-being of the pilgrims who resort to the holy places.

"Your Honour, I do not think that some of the amendments which are proposed in this Bill will be conducive to the welfare of pilgrims; but I am sure, now that the Bill is being referred to the Select Committee, some of the suggestions that we have the honour to make here in this Council, will meet with the attention of that Committee.

"My Hon'ble friend on the right has referred to the increase of the license fee from 8 annas to Rs. 2 per head. I have been looking up some of the papers connected with the Bill when it was before the Legislature in 1871, and I have been looking up the representation of the British Indian Association made at that time. I find that the Committee of the Association suggested that a portion of the magnificent endowed funds connected with some of the temples and shrines of Bengal might be applied for the comfort and convenience and accommodation of the pilgrims and the sanitation of the locality. If this sum of 8 annas is increased to Rs. 2 it will fall heavily upon the pilgrims, most of whom, as no doubt Your Honour's Government is aware, are very poor men, who come from distant parts of India, out of purely religious motives, to these places of pilgrimage. I hope that this particular point will meet with the attention of the Select Committee.

"Then under section 9 of the Bill, it is proposed that the license shall last till the 31st December of the year in which it is granted. Under the old Act, the license lasted for 12 calendar months. Now under this Bill if the license is taken out in the middle of the year the full fee will have to be paid for the six months. I think this is a matter which might very well be considered in the Select Committee.

"There is another important point in connection with section 10. It is part of the present Act, but I think it is my duty to draw Your Honour's attention to it. A Magistrate by giving previous notice and for facility for inspection has the power to inspect the lodging-houses where female pilgrims reside. I suggest in this connection that some provision should be made for a female inspector.

[*Baboo Radha Charan Pal; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur.*]

"I do not agree with my hon'ble friend that there should be any restriction in the matter of the inspection of these lodging-houses. From my own personal experience of them, I am of opinion, the more inspection the better. I know how the Pandas get scent that some officer is coming to inspect and manage to remove the excess number to some other place, and as soon as the inspection is over they bring back the pilgrims. Therefore, I think the more surprise inspection the better—due regard being paid to the customs and feelings of people—for the preservation of the lives of the people who resort to these places.

"Under section 18 of the Act, to which no amendment has been made, not only the keeper of a lodging-house but also the person actually in charge is rendered liable for any infraction of the provisions of the Act. I am sure if your Honour is aware of the fact that in many cases the Panda employs a servant on a salary of Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 a month, who is underpaid and illiterate, and innocent of the rules and regulations, you would recognise that it would be just and proper that only the keeper of the lodging-house or the license holder should be amenable to the penalties enforced under the Act.

"A new section is proposed to provide that the Magistrate, if he finds that sufficient accommodation cannot be provided in any lodging-houses, may grant temporary licenses. In this respect I feel bound to oppose this proviso. I do not think, having regard to the already overcrowded condition of lodging-houses, further powers should be given to the Magistrate to grant temporary licenses to these people to allow these Pandas further numbers than they are entitled to keep under the Lodging-house Act. In these days of improved communication, Puri, is brought within easy reach of Calcutta, and indeed with the whole of India, and I think it behoves the Government to protect the interests of other cities by enforcing as much sanitary regulations as is possible in consonance with the religious observances of the people of India.

"Under section 22 of the Act it is provided that all the fines and fees under the Act shall be expended on sanitary improvements in the town or place in which the Act may be enforced. I submit that the proceeds of the fees and fines should be spent only for the convenience and comforts of the pilgrims and not for any Municipal purpose. Where a municipality exists I do not think that any portion of this revenue should be diverted to municipal purposes. I think this point is not noted clearly in the Act now, and I think it should be clearly mentioned so that no portion of the fund be diverted to any municipal purpose.

"With these few words, I humbly support the main principle of the Bill; but I earnestly hope that these points will be taken into consideration by the Select Committee."

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, said:—"At this stage I will make a few observations with regard to one feature of the Bill which I think will unduly press upon the poorer classes of the people who form the back of the pilgrims who visit the sacred shrines of Puri and other places where the Act is in force.

"In one clause it is proposed to increase the fees for licenses from 8 annas to Rs. 2 per head of the entire number of lodgers the house is certified to accommodate. But the reasons for this enormous increase have not been made quite clear. The hon'ble mover of the Bill in his notes on the clause says: 'the increase is required to provide funds for the sanitation of the town', and something more than a general observation like this seems to me to be necessary to justify such a large increase in the license fee.

"Your Honour is doubtless aware that the inmates of lodging-houses are mostly people with very modest means, many of them being poor widows. This tax will ultimately fall on them to pay.

"In one part of the Notes on Clauses it is said: 'High prices prevail at Puri during the crowded season, and a daily rate of Rs. 5 per head, or even more, is often demanded for accommodation.' This is a very high

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur; Maharaja of Burdwan; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

rate to pay for the generality of pilgrims, and the introduction of a higher license fee will merely tend to increase the charges.

"Fines and fees collected under the Lodging-house Act are devoted to making sanitary arrangements in places where license fees are levied, and also to maintaining pilgrim hospitals and serais on the main line of roads leading to these places of pilgrimage. The necessity for such hospitals and serais has become considerably less owing to communication by rail which has now been established to Puri and other places where the Act is in force.

"Speaking of the Balasore Hospital, the District Visitor to Balasore reports: 'Pilgrims formerly constituted the great majority of the patients, but since the enlarged railway communication with Puri their numbers have greatly fallen off, and the hospital is little used by them.' What is applicable to Balasore is applicable to other places of pilgrimage where this Act is enforced; and, under these circumstances, I do not think that the Legislature would be justified in increasing the license fee.

"There is another circumstance which I intend to place before Your Honour, and that is the opening of railway communication has distributed the influx of pilgrims throughout the year, thus reducing overcrowding at special times and special seasons of religious festivals. I was last year in Puri during the *Holi* festival, and the congregation of pilgrims there did not seem to me at all striking. On the contrary, the crowd appeared to be much less than what I anticipated.

"There is also another point of view from which this question should be considered. I presume the Municipal Act and the Puri Lodging-house Act are both enforced, and that lodging house-keepers have to pay the usual municipal rates and taxes, and I do not see that there is anything to prevent the Municipal Commissioners from levying a second license fee under section 261 of the Municipal Act. For this long time the license fee of 8 annas had been found sufficient to meet the requirements of sanitation. I earnestly hope the Select Committee, which will practically give the final shape to the enactment, will be pleased to consider the question from the points of view which I have attempted to present before Council.

"I am certainly not blind to some of the salutary provisions in the Bill, and I am not opposed to the main principle on which this Bill has been constituted."

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BAHADUR OF BURDWAN said:—"It is still very early to make any reflection upon this Bill, as, no doubt, it will be given a proper shape by the Select Committee which is to be appointed. I certainly think, Sir, that the license fee is a little bit exhorbitant, and that perhaps the Select Committee may consider the desirability of reducing it to about Re. 1.

"This new section 21A is, I think, very necessary. I do not think that my hon'ble friend, Babu Radha Charan Pal, understood the section. It is, I believe intended that the temporary license that the Magistrate is being empowered to give is for extra temporary lodging-houses that might seem to be necessary at the time of the different *melas*. I certainly think the words 'in localities both healthy and not overcrowded' should be added to this clause, which I leave to the Select Committee to judge."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—"I do not think at this stage we can enter into any long discussion of the Bill. The Bill is going to be referred to a Select Committee, and it will be for the Select Committee to consider the Bill in its details. All that we can do at this stage is to make observations affecting the principle of the Bill. I am thankful to our friends for their very valuable suggestions, and as I happen to be a member of the Select Committee, and as I represent the Division of Orissa on this Council, I shall be anxious to protect the interests of the pilgrims in the places they go to. But I do not find there is any thing objectionable in the Bill itself, and

I cannot go so far as to say that I agree with my friend, Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose, that the Bill is objectionable. On the other hand, I shall support the Bill so far as its principle is concerned."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM, in reply, said:—"At this stage perhaps, Sir, very little need be said on the remarks which have been made by the Hon'ble Members who have spoken. One might suppose, from the remarks of the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose, that a proposal had been made in this Council to make far-reaching changes in the principles of this Act, but that is not the case at all. No changes of principle whatever are involved, and such changes as are proposed will be given full consideration in the Select Committee to which the Bill will be referred. I am glad, at any rate, to find that the very serious anticipations of the Hon'ble Member are not shared by the other Members of this Council who have spoken on these simple proposals.

"I can say, on behalf of the Select Committee, that all the suggestions, some of which appear moreover to be good ones, will be given every consideration when the Bill comes before the Select Committee.

"I move, therefore, for leave to introduce the Bill in Council."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. OLDHAM introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council.

The motion was put and agreed to, and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Oldham also moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Collin, the Hon'ble Mr. Gordon, the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh, the Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad and the Mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned to a date to be notified hereafter.

CALCUTTA;
The 21st February, 1908.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

B. S. Press—14-2-1908—1272—300—J. A. M.

bstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 21st March, 908, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. P. O'KINEALY, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. GAIT, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. G. GORDON.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, KT.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAIS-UD-DOWLA AMIR-UL-OMRAH NAWAB ASEF KUDR SYUD WASIF ALI MEERZA KHAN BAHADUR MAHABUT JUNG, NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. SUTHERLAND.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMMENTS IN THE PRESS WITH REFERENCE TO CRITICISMS OF THE POLICE IN JUDGMENTS OF THE COURTS.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to comments in the Press, regarding its recent correspondence with the High Court about criticism on the conduct of the Police in judgments, to the following effect:—

"If the Police are entitled to complain of vague remarks about their conduct, the Sessions Judges have the right to resent vague imputations regarding their methods of administering justice; and, if wrong has been done by Judicial Officers, warranting a change of procedure, the facts and cases which in the opinion of the Government necessitated such a change should be published?"

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to publish such facts and cases in this connection as may be in its possession, if it has no objection to do so?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The comments in the Press regarding the recent correspondence between this Government and the High Court about criticisms of the Police in judgments of the Courts, which are abstracted by the Hon'ble Member, proceeded entirely on misapprehension. The Hon'ble Judges of the High Court have access to every decision of the Courts subordinate to them, and are well aware of the nature of the criticisms made by the Courts. The Lieutenant-Governor has placed before him for his perusal every criticism on the Police made by any Court in the Province. The correspondence therefore dealt with matters well known to the Government and to the Hon'ble Judges. Under these circumstances, there was nothing vague in the remarks contained in the correspondence.

"In the second place, it is an absolute misapprehension to suppose that the change of procedure proposed by this Government to the Hon'ble Judges was based on any 'wrong done by Judicial Officers.' Although the whole subject of criticisms of the Police by Judicial Officers was considered in the letter from this Government, the proposals to change the procedure were based primarily, if not exclusively, on a desire to have the criticisms of the Courts more effectively dealt with. If the Hon'ble Member has himself perused the correspondence, he will have seen that the interpretation of it by that section of the Press to which he refers is entirely misleading.

"The Government does not propose to publish any 'facts or cases'; because it is manifestly undesirable and inexpedient for the Government to publish any particular case in which it may think a Judge has erred in his criticism. It is also entirely unnecessary; both because the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court know such cases as well as the Government, and also because such cases are not the basis of the proposed change in procedure."

DAMODAR RIVER DAM.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

(*a*) Have not the inhabitants of villages on the east and west sides of the river Damodar, in the neighbourhood of what is known as the Begua Hana, submitted a memorial to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, praying that an anicut spur dam or some similar contrivance may be constructed at Begua so as to distribute the waters of the Damodar, and that the obstructions at Harish Chak and other places mentioned in the memorial be removed so that the water may be at once carried off without the overflow which disastrously affects the whole of the district every year?

[*Mr. Inglis; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

(*b*) Is any definite scheme for improvement of the tract in question under the consideration of the Government, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to publish it on an early date, so that the people affected may submit their representations in time?

(*c*) Pending the undertaking of the scheme to be finally approved and decided on, will the Government be pleased to direct such tentative measure to be taken as may minimise the evils complained of during the ensuing rainy season?

The Hon'ble Mr. Inglis replied:—

"A memorial was received and a reply was sent last November to the effect that a definite scheme for the improvement of the tract is under the consideration of Government.

"The scheme, to which the Lieutenant-Governor has accorded administrative approval, and which it is intended to carry out at the cost of the general revenue, is the following:—It is proposed to make an earthen embankment or dam across the head of the Begua Channel where it leaves the Damodar river and to provide for the escape of the flood-water by means of two long over-flows or weirs at the level of the natural bank, which will be paved with rubble stone or concrete blocks. The object aimed at is to retain the low water flow in the old channel of the Damodar while permitting the flood-water, which is far in excess of what the channel of the river can accommodate, to spill over the bank without cutting a deep channel.

"The only possible means of relieving the country between the Damodar and the Rupnarain of flood-water is the construction of reservoirs in the upper channels of the river. This problem has been investigated more than once and it has been ascertained that the cost would be prohibitive. Moreover, a large part of the country derives benefit from the inundation. The scheme which has been approved will be carried out as soon as funds can be made available. It is not practicable to make any temporary works which would be of service."

TESTING OF COUNTRY MANUFACTURES.

The Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari asked:—

(*a*) Has any provision been made in any Government Institution in Bengal for undertaking and teaching the testing of country manufactures, such as steel, iron and cement?

(*b*) If no such provision has been made, does not the Government consider that early provision should be made, having regard to the fact that attempts to develop such manufactures in this country can be undertaken only under the greatest handicap, they being in direct competition with similar articles imported from abroad, supported by test-certificates acceptable to Government and private Engineers?

(*c*) Having regard to the recent development of the Tata Iron Works scheme and other similar works on a smaller scale, does not the Government consider that Government patronage of iron and steel produced in the country for bridge-building and other forms of constructional engineering is possible and desirable; and, if so, does not the Government consider that arrangements for testing mentioned in (*a*) and (*b*) above should and might with advantage be provided?

(*d*) Is it not a fact that the Government has already at its command the necessary machinery and appliances and all that is necessary to open a proper testing class is an appropriate staff; and, if so, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing such a staff?

[*Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"(*a*) The importance of providing locally for the testing of country manufactures such as steel, iron and cement is recognized by the Government, and proposals in this direction have received and are receiving careful consideration, but no scheme has yet been sanctioned.

"(*b*) & (*c*) It is impossible to reply to these questions without entering on a discussion of complicated and contentious subjects, such as are beyond the scope of a reply to a question in Council.

"(*d*) It is a fact that certain machinery and appliances for testing are available at the Sibpur College. The opening of classes at the College has been postponed, pending the consideration by the Government of India of another scheme."

CLASSES IN INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY IN THE SIBPUR COLLEGE.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state when the proposed classes in Industrial Chemistry at the Sibpur College, mentioned in the last annual report of the Director of Public Instruction, are likely to be started ?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"The question of starting the proposed classes is still the subject of correspondence between this Government and the Government of India."

REMOVAL OF SIBPUR COLLEGE TO RANCHI

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

(*a*) Will it please the Government to state whether it is intended to remove all the classes and departments of the Sibpur Engineering College to Ranchi, and how far the scheme of removal has advanced, and whether the Principal and the Professors of the College have been consulted as to such removal and as to the future site ?

(*b*) If they have been so consulted, will it please the Government to publish their opinions ?

(*c*) If they have not been consulted, will it please the Government to consider the desirability of consulting them ?

(*d*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the recent statements in the Press that the Government has been permitted to use public subscriptions in connection with the Ranchi schemes; and, if so, will it please the Government to state for what schemes the use of public subscriptions has been permitted ?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"(*a*) It is intended to remove the Sibpur College to Ranchi as a whole, but it is impossible to say at the present stage how every class and department of the existing college will be treated. The removal has been finally sanctioned and a site at Ranchi selected. Plans and estimates are now under preparation. The proposals have throughout been worked out in consultation with the Principal.

"(*b*) & (*c*) It has not been thought necessary to consult individual Professors. The Government does not consider it desirable to call for further opinions on the scheme.

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari; Mr. Streatfeild; Mr. Gait.*]

"(*d*) The attention of Government has been drawn to the statements in the Press. A sum exceeding 2½ lakhs of rupees is at present in the hands of Government, which has been contributed from private sources for the construction of hostels in connection with the Model College at Ranchi. It is proposed to expend this sum for the purpose for which it was subscribed. There is no other basis for the statements alluded to."

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

Does not the Government consider that the development of the Technical Departments of the Sibpur Engineering College is a matter of great economic importance to the country, and will the Government please consider the desirability of maintaining and developing the departments, as near as possible to the trading and industrial centres of the province, in connection with the proposal for the removal of the college proper to Ranchi?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The Government is fully alive to the importance of Technical Instruction, whether in connection with the Engineering College or otherwise. The Hon'ble Member may rest assured that the effect which any proposals, with regard to the College, are likely to have on the development of the technical departments is receiving and will receive the most careful consideration."

INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

Will the Government please consider the desirability and possibility of having a separate branch of the Educational Department to deal with the fast-increasing demands and problems of Technical and Industrial Education, which are foreign to the general Educationist, in order to have such education regulated and controlled by qualified experts in the same way as Medical and Agricultural educations are controlled?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The importance of Industrial and Technical Education is fully recognized by the Government, and the question, how the development of such education can be assisted, is receiving careful consideration. No decision has, however, yet been arrived at, as to whether the desired objects can best be attained by the creation of a separate branch of the Educational Service or otherwise."

DIVISION OF PATNA COMMISSIONERSHIP.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked:—

Has any representation been received by the Government for the transfer of the office of the Commissioner of Patna to Gaya, on account of its central position, and does the Government propose to take any action on such representation?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied:—

"When public criticism was invited on the proposal to divide the Commissionership of Patna into two, it was suggested by the Bar Association of Gaya and by the Chairman of the Gaya Municipal Board that the capital of the

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari; Mr. Inglis; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur; Mr. Streatfeild.*]

proposed South Gangetic Division should be transferred from Patna to Gaya. The Government is of opinion that there would be no justification for such a change, which would involve unnecessary expenditure and an unnecessary interference with vested interests."

ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIAN INDUSTRIES.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI asked :—

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to the speech of Colonel Alexander Jerome Filgate, R. E., Chairman of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, at its recent ordinary general meeting of the Company, to the following effect:—

"More support from the Government would be acceptable, and this, we think, can and ought to be given, not only without loss to Government but in the interest of both Government and the public. For years past it has been time after time proclaimed that it is the policy of the Government to encourage Indian industries, yet in regard to our industry we find large contracts still placed in Europe which could have been suitably and more cheaply fulfilled at our works."

(*b*) So far as lies in the power of the Government of Bengal, will it please the Government to give directions for the encouragement of industries of the kind mentioned in the above speech ?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied:—

"The Company has discontinued the manufacture of steel. So long as the Company manufactured steel-joists, a number of joists were taken in Bengal, also in other Provinces throughout India and Burma. Now the chief article purchased from the Company is water-pipes. These are usually purchased from the Company when such pipes are required. A number were purchased for water-mains for the Calcutta Maidan recently."

LEAVE RULES OF SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR said :—

Under the present Civil Leave and Pension Code, Subordinate Judicial Officers do not get any privilege leave on full pay and they cannot affix or prefix the same to an annual vacation, whereas Executive Officers and District Judges get one month's privilege leave on full pay after eleven months' active service and they can prefix or affix the same to an annual vacation. Having regard to the fact that the Executive Officers and District Judges enjoy the last Saturday of every month as a holiday, which fully compensates for the shorter Dusserah vacation for such officers, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of modifying the leave rules applicable to the Subordinate Judicial Officers so as to place them and the Executive Officers and District Judges on the same footing as regards the rules relating to privilege leave ?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"This matter was considered in 1906, when it was decided by the Government of India that the existing rules should not be altered. The Lieutenant-Governor is not prepared to re-open the question at present."

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur; Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

PENSIONABLE SERVICE IN SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR said :—

In reply to a question of the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose asked last year, the then Judicial Secretary of the Bengal Government was pleased to say: "that the proposal that Munsiffs should be permitted to count the broken periods spent by them in officiating appointments before confirmation as pensionable service is still under consideration with reference to the rules which regulate admission to the Subordinate Judicial Service." Will the Government be pleased to say what decision has been arrived at in regard to that matter?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The question referred to is still under the consideration of the Government of India."

COMPULSORY RETIREMENT IN SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR said:—

Having regard to the fact that the age for compulsory retirement applicable to the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court is 60 years, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of extending the age of compulsory retirement in the cases of Subordinate Judicial Officers who will be deemed upon medical examination and otherwise to be fit for good and active Judicial work on completion of the age of 55?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The Government is unable to accept the proposal that the members of the Subordinate Judicial Service should be exempted from the ordinary rules regarding superannuation; since judicial work is as hard as any other and officers who have served their time in the judicial line are not physically younger than those of other departments. It need hardly be added that in accordance with the ordinary rules no Munsif is compulsorily retired before 60, if he is still found up to his work."

CREATION OF A SEPARATE JUDGESHIP AT KHULNA.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to say whether it has come to any decision in the matter of the appointment of a District Judge for Khulna in the near future?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The question of creating a separate Judgeship for the district of Khulna has been referred to the Government of India."

SILTING OF THE ALAIPUR KHAL.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to say whether any and, if so, what steps are being taken to prevent the silting up of the Alaipur Khal and to keep it navigable throughout the year?

[*Mr. Inglis; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Oldham.*]

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied :—

"The only measure which would prevent the deposit of silt in this *khal* would be to convert it into a still-water canal by the construction of locks and weirs. The traffic which makes use of the *khal* is not sufficient to warrant the expense of this measure. An inquiry is now being held to ascertain if the local traffic can afford to pay a toll which will suffice to meet the cost of dredging plant by the use of which the silting could be kept in check."

JESSORE DRAINAGE SCHEME.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to say in what stage is the Jessore drainage scheme, and when it is likely to be taken up ?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"In this question the Hon'ble Member is understood to refer to the Jessore town drainage scheme. This scheme is being prepared by the Assistant Sanitary Engineer: it is reported to be about half finished. When completed, it will have to be formally considered by the Municipal Commissioners in meeting; and if they accept it, they will have to arrange the ways and means for carrying it out. Government is not in a position, therefore, to say when the scheme will be actually taken in hand."

IMPROVEMENT OF THE BHAIRUB RIVER.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state why the sum of Rs. 75,000, budgetted in 1906 for the Bhairub Valley Drainage scheme, was omitted from the budget of 1907 ? Will the Government be pleased to make some provision in the budget of this year for that scheme ?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"The scheme for which Rs. 75,000 was provided in the Budget for 1906-07 was one for the improvement of the Bhairab River as a navigable channel. It would have had no effect on the stream as a drainage channel. When the navigation project was fully investigated, it was found that the cost would be out of proportion to the benefit, and it was decided that it should not be proceeded with.

"A scheme for draining a number of *bhils* in the neighbourhood of Jessore, by means of cuts which will discharge into the Bhairab, is at present under the consideration of the District Board and of the Drainage Commissioners. This scheme has not yet reached the stage at which it is desirable to provide in the Budget for any grant-in-aid from Provincial Revenues."

DRINKING WATER IN RURAL AREAS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken for supplying good drinking-water, and how many tanks have been excavated for the purpose, during the last five years, at the cost or with the help of the District Boards or the Government, in each of the districts of Jessore, Krishnagar, Khulna and Murshidabad ?

[*Mr. Oldham; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM, replied:—

"From the Reports on the working of the District Boards it appears that the following sums have been spent on Water-supply (original works), during each of the past five years, in the four districts referred to by the Hon'ble Member:—

District.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Nadia	1,501	3,630	2,945	9,511	11,011	28,598
Murshidabad ...	868	648	504	567	1,198	3,785
Jessore ...	3,757	5,563	1,981	6,250	15,500	33,051
Khulna	69	1,389	5,198	9,410	16,977	33,043

Government is not in possession of information as to how many tanks for the supply of good drinking water have been excavated during each of these years.

"The Hon'ble Member's attention is also invited to Mr. Shirres' Circular No. 12T.-M., dated the 20th May, 1904, regarding the supply of drinking water in rural areas. In accordance with the terms of this Circular, the following grants were made by Government during the year 1904-05 to the four districts named:—

	Rs.
Nadia	10,000
Murshidabad	1,884
Jessore	10,000
Khulna	7,300

Since the year 1905-06, Government has been making an annual grant to the District Boards of an amount equal to one-fourth of their income from the Road Cess, in augmentation of their resources, in order to enable them to meet the growing demands on their funds. In view of this large contribution, which amounts to Rs. 9,00,000 *per annum*, separate grants under Mr. Shirres' Circular have been discontinued, with the exception of one or two special grants, including one of Rs. 5,000 given to the Nadia District Board in 1907-08 for the provision of pure water-supply."

GRANTS BY GOVERNMENT TO DISTRICT BOARDS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Is the Government aware that the funds at the disposal of the District Boards are quite insufficient to make adequate provision for supplying good drinking-water to the people, which is primarily responsible for the prevalence of diseases like cholera and malaria? Will the Government be pleased to make adequate grants for the purpose?

Will the Government be pleased to take steps for systematically having at least five good tanks every year in the districts of the Presidency Division in the first instance, in co-operation with the District Boards and the people, the inhabitants of the village in which the tank may be excavated being required to pay one-third of the cost and to give the land required free of charge?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"From the answer to Question No. V asked by the Hon'ble Member it will be seen that Government has already recognized that the funds at the disposal of District Boards are not sufficient and that it has been making very large grants to augment those resources. It now rests with the District Boards to devote a portion of these grants to the supply of good drinking water for the people. The District Boards concerned should, therefore, take necessary action in the matter with the co-operation, if necessary, of the people. In the Bill to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, it is proposed to insert provisions enabling Union Committees to incur expenditure on the improvement of water-supply, and to realize a portion of the cost of such measures by permissive local taxation."

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Gait; Mr. Oldham; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Is the Government aware that, from the results of the agricultural farms established by it, an impression has been produced on the minds of the people that it is difficult to carry on cultivation in large farms on improved methods with profit, and that, in consequence, not one of the students trained by it here, in England or in America have taken to agriculture as a profession? Will the Government be pleased to publish a statement showing that some of its farms at least are profitable and not losing concerns? If there are no such farms, will the Government be pleased to direct the Agricultural Department to establish one or two farms on business lines, giving profitable returns for the outlay of money and labour necessary for them?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied:—

"Agricultural experiment stations are established, not with the object of making a profit, but, in order to acquire knowledge regarding the best methods of cultivation and manuring of existing varieties of grain, etc., to improve the quality of these varieties by selection and otherwise, and to ascertain what crops grown elsewhere can be cultivated successfully in the locality where the station is situated. Such work necessitates the employment of highly paid officers and involves much larger expenditure than would be incurred by ordinary agriculturists.

"It can hardly be necessary for Government to prove that agriculture is a profitable profession; and it does not seem necessary for Government to establish farms with a view to working them at a profit. The interesting experiment which is being made by private individuals at Deoghur will, however, be watched by the Agricultural Department with interest."

RESOURCES OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGINDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—

The Government is aware that the District Boards have at present got practically no means at their disposal to fulfil in any useful measure the duties imposed on them, and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has expressed his sympathy with them and his desire to help them. Will the Government be pleased to say what measures are being taken for the purpose?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"As will be seen from the answers to Questions V and VI, Government has recognized the inadequacy of the resources of District Boards. During each of the three years, 1901-02 to 1903-04, a grant of five lakhs was made, and since 1905-06 an annual grant of nine lakhs has been made with a view to increase their resources."

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked:—

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all appointments of Inspectors of Schools in the Province will henceforth be reserved for Europeans, and that no Indian officer will be eligible for such appointments?

(*b*) If the Government has such a scheme in contemplation, will it be pleased to state the grounds for excluding Indian officers from such appointments?

[*Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Mr. Oldham; Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"When the sanctioned Inspecting staff is complete, there will be six Divisional Inspectors of Schools, and six additional Inspectors in this Province. The former will usually be Officers in the Indian Educational Service, the latter will always be Officers in the Provincial Educational Service. The Indian Educational Service is, no doubt at present, practically recruited as a European service; but otherwise there is no intention of reserving all or any of these posts for European officers."

HEAD MASTERS OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked :—

Is it a fact that the appointments of Head Masters of all Government Schools in the Divisional head-quarters will henceforth be exclusively reserved for Europeans? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the grounds for excluding Indians from such appointments?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"The whole question of the improvement of Secondary Schools is at present receiving the consideration of Government. Among other proposals which have been made in this behalf is one for the appointment of officers of the Indian Educational Service to be Head Masters of a few selected High Schools. No final decision has yet been arrived at on this point. The object of the proposal, however, is not to replace Indian Head Masters by Europeans, but to secure for these High Schools the services of highly qualified officers of the Superior Service as their Head Masters."

DISPOSAL OF FEES AND FINES COLLECTED UNDER THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE ACT, 1871 (BEN. ACT IV OF 1871).

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said :—

The Municipality of Puri being primarily responsible for the sanitary improvement of the town, will the Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of making over to the Municipality the fees and fines collected under the Puri Lodging-house Act (Ben. Act IV of 1871) which are now placed at the disposal of the Magistrate?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"The Act itself and the by-laws issued by Government thereunder provide for the proper disposal of the fees and fines in accordance with the objects of the law. The law does not contemplate that these monies should be made over to the Municipality. The Municipality, however, receives grants from the Lodging-house Fund."

GRIEVANCES OF THE SUBORDINATE MEDICAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY, in the absence of the Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the two articles in the "Empire" of the 15th February, 1908, on the subject of the grievances of the Subordinate Medical Service?

(*b*) Have the memorials of the Civil Assistant Surgeons been received by the Government? If not, will the Government call for them from the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, to whom they were addressed, with the opinions of the forwarding officers by whom they were submitted?

(*c*) Is the Government aware that great discontent prevails among the Civil Assistant Surgeons, for reasons stated in their memorials, and that it is intensified by the non-receipt of any acknowledgment from that officer, and that some have already resigned their service on that ground?

[*Mr. Oldham; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Inglis.*]

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to take these humble memorials into its favourable consideration and remove their just grievances, which stand in the way of getting efficient medical men, whose services are indispensably required for the improvement of the public health and the saving of individual lives in the muffassal?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"(*a*) The attention of Government had not previously been drawn to the articles in question.

"(*b*) The memorials referred to have not yet been received by Government. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals reports that up to date he has received memorials from 59 Assistant Surgeons: he is now considering the representations of the memorialists and he will submit his recommendations to Government in due course.

"(*c*) The fact that so many memorials have been submitted shows *prima facie* that dissatisfaction exists. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals reports, however, that the allegation contained in the latter portion of this question is without foundation.

"(*d*) The memorials, with the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals' remarks and recommendations, will certainly receive full consideration at the hands of Government."

BERAI CANAL PROJECT.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY in the absence of the Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked :—

(*a*) Is it a fact that a memorial, signed by the residents of fifty-five villages in the district of Bankura, was submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying for the construction of a canal from the river Berai for agricultural purposes?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the memorialists offered to pay for the supply of water to their fields at a rate varying from annas 4 to annas 12 per bigha?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Irrigation Department, has asked the petitioners to furnish him with particulars as to the river referred to and the sketch map showing where the canal is wanted, and to show that the levels of the land are such as to admit of the canal being constructed, and whether such information has been given so far as the petitioners, who are poor men, could give it?

(*d*) If the information as supplied is not deemed sufficient, will the Government be pleased to order a survey of the land to ascertain the level, etc., at the cost of the Government, for the benefit of the villages?

(*e*) Having regard to the frequent failure of crops in the villages referred to, due to the failure of rain and consequent distress of the people, will the Government be pleased to sanction the canal when the people are willing to pay for the benefit received?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied :—

"The facts recited in clauses (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) of the question are correct.

"In the year 1901, the late Mr. Maconchy, Superintending Engineer, made a preliminary inquiry to ascertain if a Canal from the Berai River could be recommended as a protective work. The conclusions he came to, which were accepted by Government, were—1st, that the catchment of the stream is so small that in a season of drought the supply of water would either fail altogether or would be so small as to be of very little use; and 2nd, that there was no prospect whatever of the canal being remunerative to Government. The scheme was therefore regarded as impracticable.

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Inglis.*]

"It was estimated that a detailed survey would cost Rs. 4,600. There is no justification for an expenditure of this amount from the General Revenues on work which would be of no practical use. It will, however, be arranged to have observations made of the flow of water in the stream to ascertain definitely what area could be irrigated at a time of drought. On the present information it would appear that a channel made by the land owners themselves, similar to the *pynes* of which there are so many in the Gaya district, would be more suitable than a Government Canal".

TOLLY'S NALA AND RICE TRADE.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, in the absence of the Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL, asked:—

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a portion of the Tolly's Nala below the Boat Canal and *Kaurapukur* khal has practically been silted up and the trade in rice has thereby been seriously affected? If so, will it kindly state what steps have been proposed to be taken to render it navigable, and when they are likely to be taken?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the great inconvenience of the inhabitants and traders of Chetla and Shahanagore from the absence of a cart bridge over the Tolly's Nala between the Kalighat and Tollyganj bridges, which are situated at a distance of $1\frac{3}{8}$ mile from each other? Is it not a fact that the proposal for the erection of the said bridge has been unanimously approved of by the Calcutta Corporation, and that the said Corporation has expressed its willingness to contribute Rs. 20,000 towards the cost of construction of the said bridge? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether it will kindly sanction the construction of the said bridge?

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS replied:—

"(*a*) The present state of Tolly's Nala is much the same as that which must have always prevailed. Owing to the meeting of the tidal streams, silting is inevitable. The only possible remedy is to convert the channel into a canal with locks and sluices. This question has been investigated more than once, but so far with a negative result, as the expense of the works required would be out of proportion to the benefit.

"(*b*) In November, 1906, a Member of the Calcutta Corporation solicited the construction of an additional bridge over Tolly's Nala in the vicinity of the Chetla rice market. The Commissioner of Police, who was consulted, was of opinion that the bridge, if made, would benefit comparatively few people. The inquiries of the Public Works Officers also indicated that there was no general demand or need for the bridge. The Chairman of the Corporation, however, intimated in June, 1907, that the Corporation were of opinion that the bridge would be useful, and that they would contribute Rs. 20,000 towards the cost. The Chairman was informed, in a letter dated 20th June, 1907, that the offer could not be accepted, and that a contribution of at least Rs. 50,000 would be necessary, as the bridge with approaches would cost not less than Rs. 80,000 and probably as much as Rs. 1,00,000 or more, as on the east side of the Nala a new approach road would be necessary. A reply to this letter is awaited."

COURT INSPECTORS IN THE CALCUTTA POLICE COURT.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, in the absence of the Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL, asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) On what terms the present Court Inspectors are empowered to conduct the prosecution of Police cases?

(*b*) What is the nature of the cases that they have been empowered to conduct?

[*Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Mr. Oldham.*]

(*c*) Have the general or special powers of the Criminal Procedure Code, contemplated in section 495, sub-section (*1*), been conferred upon them? Has the fact been gazetted; and, if so, when and where? If not, is their appointment legally tenable?

(*d*) Whether the opinion of the Advocate-General was taken as to the applicability of section 495, sub-section (*1*), in this behalf in the Presidency Town of Calcutta? If not, will the Government be pleased to take it now?

(*e*) Whether, in view of the separate function of the Judicial and Executive in the Presidency Town of Calcutta, the Government will be pleased to abolish the said post of Court Inspector in the Calcutta Police Court, and consider the advisability of appointing an Assistant Government Prosecutor from among the practising pleaders of the Court, for the purpose of conducting the prosecution of Police cases which the Government Prosecutor could not attend to?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"(*a*) The present Court Inspectors are appointed to be Public Prosecutors under section 492 (*1*) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

"(*b*) Their duty is to conduct the prosecution of cases in which professional advice and assistance are not required.

"(*c*) and (*d*) The provisions of section 495 (*1*) of the Code of Criminal Procedure do not apply to these officers.

"(*e*) The Government does not propose to make the change suggested in clause (*e*) of the question. There is no reason to suppose that it would tend either to efficiency or to economy."

CRIMINAL COURTS SITTING AT NIGHT.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked:—

Whether, in view of the great inconvenience felt by the litigants and the lawyers owing to the fact that some Criminal Courts hold their sittings even at night, the Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of fixing the hours during which such Courts should be held?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"There is no doubt that late sittings are held in certain Courts and on certain occasions owing to press of work or other causes, but the Government has no reason to believe that such late sittings are more frequent than is necessary for the punctual despatch of business, or that they cause serious inconvenience. The Government deprecates late sittings, but it is not practicable to limit the discretion of judicial officers to prolong their sittings if this is required by the work on hand."

THE SAMBALPUR (EVIDENCE) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to repeal the Central Provinces Laws Act, 1879, so far as it applies to the district of Sambalpur.

THE BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1908-09

THE HON'BLE MR. OLDHAM laid on the table the Bengal Financial Statement for 1908-09, with explanatory notes. He said:—

"SIR, I beg to lay on the table the Financial Statement with the usual appendices and accounts; and in doing so to make a few remarks of a general

nature in explanation of our position. The Statement has been prepared on the same lines as previous statements. There are only two innovations to which attention may be drawn. The first is that, in accordance with the decision of the Government of India, local finance will in future be wholly separated from the general accounts. The head 'Contributions from Provincial to Local,' therefore, disappears, and the grants to Local will, with effect from next year, be shown under the several service heads concerned. The second is that, under the instructions of the Government of India, a statement showing the receipts and expenditure of District Boards and District Road Committees has been added as an Appendix to the Financial Statement.

"It has been the good fortune of some of my predecessors in office to lay prosperity budgets before this Council: it has fallen to my lot on this occasion to present the budget when there is, unfortunately, no surplus to distribute among the several Departments eager to press schemes of administrative reform.

"There are two principal causes for the present financial position—(1) the gradual depletion of the previous large balances, which has been due chiefly to largely increased expenditure on Public Works, and (2) the unprecedentedly high prices of food-grains that have ranged all over the country during the past two years, which do not show any present signs of falling.

"Excluding the special grant of 50 lakhs for the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, made in the year 1903-04, which is of the nature of a trust and cannot be utilized for any other purpose, the closing balances during the past six years have been—

				Rs.
In 1901-02	...	...	...	49,05,782
„ 1902-03	...	...	...	55,29,421
„ 1903-04	...	...	...	92,52,919
„ 1904-05	...	...	...	80,00,101
„ 1905-06	...	...	...	62,61,898
„ 1906-07	...	...	...	43,84,443

Taking the revised estimate, the closing balance at the end of the current year will be Rs. 21,32,000, and according to the budget now placed on the table the balance at the close of 1908-09 will be reduced to Rs. 13,90,000, or about fifteen and-a-half lakhs if we add Rs. 1,56,000, being the Provincial expenditure on distress next year, as we are allowed to do under the existing arrangement with the Government of India. The large increase in the year 1903-04 was due to a particular cause, *viz.*, the grant from Imperial Revenues of a special allotment of 50 lakhs to start the new Provincial Settlement then under consideration. These large surplus balances were chiefly absorbed in Public Works expenditure. The charges on account of Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department amounted in 1901-02 to Rs. 43,71,000, in 1902-03 to Rs. 55,69,000, in 1903-04 to Rs. 74,39,000, in 1904-05 to Rs. 58,38,000, in 1905-06 to Rs. 62,79,000, in 1906-07 to Rs. 66,93,000 and in 1907-08, according to the revised estimate, they will amount to Rs. 71,04,000. The Public Works expenditure during the last five years has, therefore, been enormously in excess of that of previous years. For the purposes of the present Provincial Settlement, the charges on this account were taken at about 40 lakhs only. The result of the increased activity in this direction, moreover, has been that there are many large projects still in hand and uncompleted, and for which provision has had to be made during the current, and will still have to be made during the ensuing, year; and though we have been compelled to restrict such expenditure next year, we have not been able, looking to the many necessary schemes already in hand to place the estimated outlay below Rs. 55,71,000. As an example of the development of Public Works operations, I may mention that during the past five years the expenditure on Jails, Police and Medical buildings in Calcutta alone has been Rs. 50,90,000.

"During the same period, the ordinary demands of the Administration have been steadily increasing from year to year in all Departments, in some in

accordance with normal expansion, and in others to an abnormal extent, as, for instance, in the case of the Departments of Police and Education. The charges on account of the Police Department have increased from Rs. 48,80,000 in 1902-03 to Rs. 74,37,000 in 1907-08, and the budget for next year stands at Rs. 77,63,000. The larger part, no doubt, of this increased expenditure has been borne by liberal grants from the Imperial Government; still a considerable portion of it has fallen, and must continue to fall in the future, upon Provincial Revenues.

"In the case of the Education Department the outlay from Provincial Funds has steadily risen from 26 lakhs in 1902-03 to 42½ lakhs in the revised estimate for the current year. Part of this increase also has been borne by the Imperial Government. The numerous schemes of reform and improvement that have been undertaken or are in contemplation in connexion with this Department will, moreover, call for a continually increasing expenditure. The demands during recent years for the development of Technical Education have also led to an increase under this head. In the budget for next year, Technical Education in all its branches accounts for an aggregate provision of more than six lakhs.

"Under Medical, the charges have increased from Rs. 17,15,000 in 1902-03 to Rs. 22,64,000 in the revised estimate for the current year. The estimate for next year is very much higher, for a special reason which I shall explain presently.

"Though Bengal, we are thankful to say, has not suffered so severely from the effects of deficient harvests as other parts of India, or as it has suffered on previous occasions, some provision has had to be made for direct expenditure on Relief Measures. The charges on this account during the current year have been estimated at Rs. 6,12,000, which will, under the existing arrangement with the Government of India, be borne by Imperial Revenues. Next year, however, it is estimated that besides the sum chargeable to Imperial (Rs. 8,44,000), Rs. 1,56,000 will have to be spent on this account from Provincial Funds. Besides this direct expenditure on relief, a sum of Rs. 20,00,000 has been given out in loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act during the current year, and it is estimated that about the same amount will be advanced during 1908-09.

"While, however, the high prices do not affect so adversely the agricultural population, they cause much suffering among the people who are dependent on small fixed incomes and the low-salaried ministerial officers and menial servants. It was with a view to alleviating the distress among these latter classes, that Government took upon itself to grant compensation for dearness of provisions to all menials and ministerial officers drawing pay of Rs. 30 and less *per mensem*. The charges on this account during the current year are estimated at more than 9½ lakhs; and 8½ lakhs have been provided on this account for 1908-09. The effect of high prices has also been felt in other directions, as, for instance, in raising the cost of feeding the prisoners in our jails It is in consequence of this unforeseen expenditure that the closing balance of the current year has fallen so low, and the closing balance for next year has been reduced below the minimum.

"Under the terms of our settlement with the Government of India, we must keep a minimum working balance of 20 lakhs; and although the estimates for next year have been passed by the Imperial Government, we shall have to take steps as soon as may be possible to make up the deficit. This means that we shall not only be precluded from taking into consideration any new projects, but we must also exercise rigid economy till the financial position has much improved.

"In almost every Department there are important projects either ready or under consideration that will involve an increase of expenditure, and numerous requests for additional allotments have had to be reluctantly refused. We have, as far as was practicable in the circumstances explained above, made provision either wholly or partially for the most pressing schemes of reform.

[*Mr. Oldham.*]

"We have made provision for additional recurring expenditure to the extent of Rs. 2,31,000 under Education, besides special grants of a non-recurring nature amounting to Rs. 77,000.

"Under Agriculture, we have provided for additional recurring expenditure of Rs. 45,000 for Agricultural Experiment Stations and for the improvement of the Silk Industry. We have allotted a sum of one lakh towards the construction of the new Agricultural College at Sabaur, and Rs. 50,000 towards the fittings and furniture thereof.

"A provision of Rs. 1,00,000 has been made for the continuance of the special inquiries into the Fisheries of the Province, with a view to the future development of this important industry.

"Under Ports and Pilotage, a heavy provision of Rs. 5,87,000 has had to be made to meet the balance of the cost of the new steam cruiser for the Sandheads and of the stores required for it.

"Large allotments have been made for the extension and improvement of Medical Institutions in Calcutta, to bring them up to date and make them more worthy of the Metropolis of India, *viz.*, Rs. 2,35,000 for the new Surgical Block, Rs. 90,000 for the new 4th Block and Rs. 24,000 for a Cholera Ward at the Medical College; Rs. 97,600 for the double-storied Ward, Campbell Hospital; and Rs. 49,000 for the new Paying Patients' Ward, Presidency General Hospital.

"We have provided for liberal grants-in-aid towards Local Drainage and Water-supply. The principal items under this head are an allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for sanitary improvement and pure water-supply at Puri; a contribution of Rs. 77,000 towards the cost of the Monghyr Water-works scheme; a contribution of Rs. 75,000 in aid of the scheme for water-supply at Gaya; a grant of Rs. 50,000 to the Patna Municipality towards the cost of installing a third pumping station for flushing the drains; and a provision of Rs. 20,000, as a portion of the grant which Government expects to make towards the Serampore Water-supply scheme.

"As will be seen from the details under Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department, a considerable sum has been allotted for the improvement of District Civil Courts and Munsifis.

"We have made increased provision under Land Revenue, Excise, Registration, General Administration, Courts of Law, Police and Medical for strengthening and re-organizing, as well as improving the pay and prospects of establishments.

"A provision of Rs. 90,000 has been made under 'Medical' for measures in connexion with Plague. Besides this, however, it will be observed that the Government of India have just made a special large assignment of Rs. 4,50,000 under the same head, for sanitary improvements with special reference to the prevention of plague. We have also provided, under this head, Rs. 30,000 for special measures recommended by the Drainage Committee in connexion with the prevention of fever.

"It will also be noticed that a special assignment of Rs. 4,00,000 has been made by the Government of India, under Police, for additional reforms in accordance with the recommendations of the Police Commission. Sums of two lakhs and one lakh-and-a-quarter, respectively, have been allotted for the purchase of much-needed house accommodation for the Calcutta and Howrah Police.

"It has been decided, with a view to giving the Members of this Council ample time to consider the details of the Financial Statement, that it will not come up for discussion till the 4th April. My colleagues and I hope that the Hon'ble Members will extend to us the same courtesy that has been shown on previous occasions, and give notice within the next six or seven days of any points which they propose to bring forward, that information may be collected, where necessary, to enable us to reply."

THE BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1908-1909.

PART I.—General Review.

(1) ACCOUNTS FOR 1906-1907.

IN the revised estimate for 1906-1907, which was laid before the Council on the 23rd March 1907, the receipts of the year were taken at Rs. 5,03,37,000, and the expenditure at Rs. 5,22,71,000. These anticipations have been borne out in a remarkable manner by the actual results. The accounts of the year which have now been closed show that, as compared with the estimates, the receipts were better by Rs. 20,000, and the charges were less by Rs. 36,000 only. There was, however, an increase of Rs. 2,14,000 in the opening balance of the year, caused by the inclusion of the credit and debit balances of the District Post Funds and the Patwari Cess, on their abolition at the close of the year 1905-1906, so that the net result was an improvement of Rs. (2,14,000 + 20,000 + 36,000 =) 2,70,000 in the closing balance, which amounted to Rs. 93,84,000, against Rs. 91,14,000 anticipated when the last Financial Statement was presented.

(2) REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1907-1908.

2. The budget for 1907-1908, as passed by the Government of India, provided for receipts aggregating Rs. 5,20,28,000 and an expenditure of Rs. 5,36,86,000. The revised estimate now passed provides for a revenue of Rs. 5,21,40,000 and an expenditure of Rs. 5,43,92,000. The net result is a deficit of Rs. 22,52,000, as against Rs. 16,58,000 anticipated last year.

3. On the receipt side the revenue is expected to show an increase of Rs. 1,12,000 which is the net result of improvements under some heads and of decreases under others. Improvements aggregating Rs. 12,02,000 are expected chiefly under the following heads:—Stamps (Rs. 2,25,000) under General Stamps; Excise (Rs. 1,00,000) owing to increase in duty on country liquors; Registration (Rs. 1,50,000) owing chiefly to a larger number of documents being registered in consequence of the high prices of food-grains; Superannuation (Rs. 3,51,000) on account of the sale-proceeds of the investments of the Police Superannuation Fund now abolished; Irrigation Major Works (Rs. 1,51,000) owing to the expansion of *rabi* irrigation; Irrigation Minor Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 1,19,000) chiefly in navigation receipts of the Calcutta and Eastern Canals; and Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 85,000), chiefly under rent of buildings, &c. On the other hand, the decreases aggregate Rs. 10,90,000. They occurred principally under the following heads:—Land Revenue (Rs. 3,45,000) owing chiefly to suspensions and remissions of revenue due to scarcity; Adjustments between Imperial and Provincial (Rs. 1,01,000) as shown in Appendix A; Jails (Rs. 71,000) due to smaller proceeds from Jail manufactures; Ports and Pilotage (Rs. 90,000); Miscellaneous (Rs. 81,000), chiefly due to the discontinuance of banking fees and fees for audit of accounts of Municipal and other Local Funds; and Contributions (Rs. 2,54,000). The decrease under the last head was due partly to the stoppage of banking fees hitherto charged to District Funds, and partly to the fact that no advance was made for the Magrahat Drainage scheme in the preceding year, so that no refund was recoverable in the present year, as originally estimated.

4. On the expenditure side, the revised estimate shows a net increase of Rs. 7,06,000, which is more than accounted for by the heavy charges incurred in the payment of grain compensation allowance to officers on small pay and on account of the diet of prisoners in Jails and of the sick in hospitals owing to the high prices of food-grains. There are, however, other increases, viz., under Stationery and Printing (Rs. 2,00,000) owing to larger expenditure in the presses; under Miscellaneous (Rs. 1,27,000) for special refunds due to the reduction in the rate of interest on the Howrah and Rajapur Drainage advances from 5 to 4

per cent., with retrospective effect, under Act II of 1902, and to the actual maintenance charges of those works having proved much less than the amount estimated at the time of their capitalization; under Irrigation Major Works (Rs 2,45,000) for larger grants for maintenance and repairs to flood damages; and under Civil Works by the Public Works Department (Rs. 1,04,000) for additional grants made for works urgently required. Against these increases there are decreases of Rs. 53,000 under Forests owing to smaller expenditure under Conservancy and Works; of Rs. 3,29,000 under Interest on Debt—Irrigation Major Works—due to the reduction of the rate of interest under the revised system of calculation and distribution of interest in reference to the average incidence of the charges actually paid in each year; of Rs. 3,93,000 under Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers on account of the appropriation of the reserve under this head to other heads and the failure to utilize certain specific grants for which schemes were not sufficiently matured to admit of expenditure; and of Rs. 1,40,000 under Contributions from Provincial to Local for transfer to other heads.

5. The closing balance of the current year was estimated in March last at Rs. 74,56,000. To this should be added Rs. 2,70,000, the excess of the opening balance over the estimate, and Rs. 1,12,000, by which the receipts of the current year have improved; while Rs. 7,06,000, being the increase of expenditure, must be deducted. In the revised estimate, therefore, the closing balance of the current year is Rs. (74,56,000 + 2,70,000 + 1,12,000— 7,06,000 =) 71,32,000.

(3) BUDGET ESTIMATE, 1908-09.

6. The opening balance for 1908-09 corresponds with the closing balance of the current year, and is, therefore, taken at Rs. 71,32,000.

7. The estimate shows receipts aggregating Rs. 5,42,56,000, an expenditure of Rs. 5,49,98,000 and a closing balance of Rs. 63,90,000.

8. The ordinary Provincial minimum closing balance is Rs. 20,00,000 but in addition to that amount the Government of Bengal must keep the special grant for the improvement of Calcutta untouched, so that under present conditions the minimum closing balance is 20+50=70 lakhs. A provision of Rs. 1,56,000 has been made under the head Famine Relief, and under the orders of the Government of India the prescribed balance may be reduced by that amount. The closing balance now estimated is therefore less than the minimum balance by Rs. 6,10,000—1,56,000=Rs. 4,54,000. This deficit is more than accounted for by the provision for the payment of grain compensation allowance to officers on pay of Rs. 30 and less. The total provision on this account in the budget is about eight and-a-half lakhs. This allowance was not taken into account in the standard of expenditure accepted for the purpose of the Financial Settlement made with this Province.

9. The budget estimate for next year, as passed by the Government of India, provides for receipts aggregating Rs. 5,42,56,000, as stated above. This includes the following special assignments from Imperial Revenues:—

	Rs.
For Police reorganization	12,00,000
On account of Madaripur Bhil route (maintenance) ...	50,000
Ditto (capital) ...	1,69,000
In connection with the Famine Relief scheme	2,60,000
For Technical education	35,000
„ European and Eurasian education	65,000
„ University and Collegiate education	1,60,000
„ Abolition of the Patwari cess in Sambalpur ...	26,000
„ Continuous maintenance of record-of-rights in Orissa ...	59,000
„ Temporary occupation of 2, Bankshall Street by Commerce and Industry Department	16,000
„ Contribution from Eastern Bengal and Assam Government to the Belgachhia Veterinary College	28,000
„ Provincialization of Dhaka Canal	12,000
„ Net charges of Inland Labour Transport in Bengal payable from the Provincial Revenues of Eastern Bengal and Assam	10,000
„ Increased remuneration to the Solicitor to Government	36,000
„ Stoppage of free supply of materials by the Central Press, Calcutta, to the Provincial Presses	2,000

	Rs.
„ Transfer of the control of Government House and Hastings House Gardens to the Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden	11,000
„ Grant to the Bibliotheca Indica Fund of the Asiatic Society	3,000
„ Relieving the Municipalities of Police charges ...	21,000
„ Sanitary improvements	4,50,000
	26,14,000
Less contribution to Imperial for pensions of Calcutta Police constables paid in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	21,000
Reduction of interest on capital outlay on Irrigation Major Works	3,45,000
	3,66,000
Net additional grant ...	22,47,000

10. The expenditure of the year is estimated at Rs. 5,49,98,000, exceeding the income by Rs. 7,42,000. This estimated excess of expenditure over income has had to be met at present by reduction of the balance, and is more than covered by (*a*) the grants on account of grain compensation allowance which are estimated at 8½ lakhs, and (*b*) the provision of Rs. 1,50,000 for Famine Relief charges. The estimate also includes provision for special non-recurring charges, the more important of which are shown below :—

II.—Statement of non recurring charges.

	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue—		
Sundarbans reclamation	50,000	
Initial outlay in keeping up records-of-rights, Orissa	1,50,000	
Grant for improvements in record-rooms ...	20,000	
Reproduction and correction of maps	21,000	
		2,41,000
Registration—		
Purchase of new furniture for Sub-Registrars' Offices	3,000	
		3,000
Forests—		
Survey of Sundarbans forests	20,000	
Completion of steam-launch *Harrier* for Sundarbans forests	14,000	
		34,000*
General Administration—		
Pay and establishment of Controller of Office System	19,000	
		19,000
Jails—		
Acquisition of land for the extension of jails ...	10,000	
		10,000
Ports and Pilotage—		
Second cruiser for the Sandheads ...	5,47,000	
Purchase of marine stores for ditto ...	40,000	
		5,87,000
Education—		
For improvements in the Presidency College ...	20,000	
Additional grants for furniture and apparatus for Government Colleges	16,000	
Additional grant for workshop equipment and electrical apparatus for the laboratories of several departments of the Civil Engineering College	36,000	
Cost of proposed removal of the boys of the Alipore Reformatory School to Hazaribagh ...	5,000	
		77,000

* This represents the Provincial share, or half the estimated outlay.

	Rs.	Rs.
Scientific and other Minor Departments—		
Lump provision for fittings and furniture of Agricultural College	50,000	
Purchase of cinchona bark	50,000	
Rebuilding the office in the Darjeeling Botanic Garden	5,000	
Additional Establishment for the revision of the District Gazetteers	14,000	
		1,19,000
Miscellaneous—		
Fisheries enquiry		1,00,000
Civil works in charge of Civil Officers—		
For housing of officials at Burdwan ...	1,00,000	
Initial outlay for the division of Patna into two Commissionerships	64,000	
Contribution to—		
Calcutta Municipality for removal of refuse platform	45,000	
Monghyr Municipality for water-supply ...	77,000	
Berhampore Municipality for drainage ...	20,000	
Puri Municipality for sanitary improvement and water-supply	1,00,000	
Patna Municipality for a third pumping-station for flushing drains	50,000	
Kurseong Municipality for water-supply ...	10,000	
Calcutta Municipality for realignment of drains in the new Presidency Jail at Alipore ...	1,20,000	
Darjeeling Municipality for sanitary improvements	44,000	
Gaya Municipality for water-works	75,000	
Serampore Municipality for water-supply ...	20,000	
		7,30,000
Compensation for dearness of provisions ...	...	8,50,000
Total, Civil Department	...	27,79,000
Irrigation—		
For clearance of silt in the Midnapore Canal ...	50,000	
,, renewal of plant, Dehri Workshop... ...	25,000	
,, raising the Pattamundai Canal flood-bank ...	25,000	
,, Dhappa-Bamunghatta Canal	2,01,000	
,, Madaripur Bhil Channel	2,30,000	
,, Government share of the cost of construction of a new bridge in place of the existing one over the Circular Canal on the Barrackpur Road for the extension of the Electric Tramway ...	45,000	
		5,76,000
Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department—		
Principal Works in progress—		
Surgical Block, Medical College, Calcutta ...	2,30,500	
New Presidency Jail, Alipore	1,50,000	
Purchase of Ross Distillery, Howrah	1,25,000	
Agricultural College, Sabaur	1,00,000	
Double-storied Ward, Campbell Hospital ...	97,000	
Paying patients Ward, General Hospital ...	49,000	
Civil Court Buildings, Darbhanga	65,000	
Double-storied Judge's Court, Arrah	50,000	
Improvements in Sleeping Ward, Midnapore Jail ...	60,000	
Leadsmen's Quarters, Kidderpore	59,000	
Deputy Commissioner's Court, Angul	20,000	
Treble Munsifi, Kushtia	30,000	
Subdivisional Courts, Sassaram	30,000	
New Zilla School, Chaibassa	30,000	
Cholera Ward, Medical College	24,000	
New Hospital in Purnea Jail	22,000	
High Level Tista Valley Road	61,000	
Cuttack-Sambalpur Road	35,000	
		12,73,100

New Works—	Rs.	Rs.
Purchase of Duff's College for the Calcutta Police ...	2,00,000	
Subdivisional buildings, including Assistant Surgeon's quarters, Dhanbaid	40,000	
Deputy Commissioner's residence, Sambalpur ...	10,000	
Civil Courts, Cuttack	25,000	
4th Block, Medical College	90,000	
Patna College Scheme	40,000	
Khulna Jail	30,000	
		4,35,000
Total ...		50,54,100

11. The estimate also provides, besides the normal growth of expenditure due to progressive development of the administration, such as increase in salaries, superannuation charges, &c., for the following recurring outlay in addition to what was provided for in the current year's estimate:—

I.—Statement of additional recurring charges.

Land Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.
Maintenance of land records in Orissa ...	33,000	
Establishments for new subdivisions in Midnapur District and Chota Nagpur Division ...	5,000	
		38,000
Registration—		
Increase of pay of clerks	10,000	
For giving full effect to the reorganization of the Department	30,000	
Office rents of Sub-Registrars	4,000	
		44,000
General Administration—		
Increase in establishment for extension of audit of Port Trust accounts	14,000	
Additional Assistant Secretary, Legislative Department, and his establishment	7,000	
		21,000
Courts of Law—		
Reorganization of the English Office, Appellate Side, High Court	3,000	
Increase of remuneration of Government Solicitor	36,000	
Increase of remuneration of Public Prosecutor ..	5,000	
Additional Judge, Monghyr, and establishment	16,000	
Cost of typing Sessions records for the use of Magistrates and Government pleaders ...	5,000	
Raising the scale of diet and travelling expenses of witnesses	5,000	
		70,000
Police—		
Lump provision for reforms	.....	4,00,000
Ports and Pilotage—		
Establishment and mess and victualling allowances for the 2nd pilot steamer	37,000	
		37,000
Education—		
Audit of Accounts of European Schools ...	7,000	
Second Inspectress of Schools	6,000	
Additional Deputy Inspectors	25,000	
Additional Assistant Inspectors	10,000	
Additional Sub-Inspectors	61,000	
Additional Assistant Sub-Inspectors	23,000	
Establishment for Inspectors, etc.	12,000	
Travelling allowances of additional Officers, etc. ...	55,000	
Lump provision for strengthening the staff of Government Colleges	25,000	
Additional Demonstrators, Physical and Chemical laboratory, Civil Engineering College ...	3,000	
New School at Karaya	4,000	
		2,31,000

	Rs.	Rs.
Medical—		
Lump provision for an additional Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and for a new animal Vaccination Depot at Ranchi	21,000	
Establishment for strengthening the Patna and the Cuttack Medical Schools ...	5,000	
Lump provision for Sanitary improvements ...	4,50,000	
		4,76,000
Scientific and other Minor Departments—		
Recurring cost of experimental farms	25,000	
Annual grant for Fraserganj farm	3,000	
Ditto Kalimpong farm	5,000	
Maintenance of Government gardens in and near Calcutta and Sambalpur	45,000	
Provincialization of Inland Labour Transport Fund	19,000	
Improvement of Silk Industry	12,000	
		1,09,000
Total		14,26,000

12. The only change of any importance, which has been made in the classification of accounts, is the abolition, under the orders of the Imperial Government, of the adjusting head of Contributions between Provincial and Local. Hitherto all grants to the District Boards and the District Road Committees have been adjusted under Contributions: now these will be shown under the various service heads: thus grants for education will be shown under Education, those for roads under Civil Works, &c. The details of these grants are shown below :—

	Rs.
Education—(net grants, *i.e.*, in addition to receipts from ferries, pounds, &c., which were localized on the introduction of the Local Self-Government Act)	5,51,000
Medical	14,000
Land Revenue	31,000
Provincial Rates	1,000
Police	1,000
Scientific and other Minor Departments	9,000
Miscellaneous	17,000
Civil Works	12,76,000
Total ...	19,00,000

13. Appendix C shows the transactions of the District Boards and District Road Committees, the figures in the column of estimates representing those passed by the Commissioners of Divisions.

PART II.—Detailed remarks on the Budget for 1908-09.

Receipts.

14. *Land Revenue.*—The total collections under this head in 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 2,89,04,871; and the estimate for 1905-09, as passed by the Government of India, is Rs. 2,99,50,000, against Rs. 2,94,50,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08. The estimate includes Rs. 9,42,000 for recoveries of survey and settlement charges, against Rs. 8,00,000 provided in the revised estimates for 1907-08.

15. The estimated Provincial share of Land Revenue is arrived at as follows:—

	Estimate, 1908-09. Rs.
Gross Land Revenue	2,99,50,000
Deduct estimated collections from Government Estates (wholly Provincial)	33,70,000
Deduct recoveries of Survey and Settlement charges (wholly Imperial)	9,42,000
Total Deduction ...	43,12,000

	Estimate, 1908-09.
	Rs.
Net amount divisible between Imperial and Provincial funds	2,56,38,000
Provincial share of above (one-half)	1,28,19,000
Add collections from Government Estates as above ...	33,70,000
Total Provincial ...	1,61,89,000
Add adjustments as in Appendix A	31,21,000
Total Provincial share ...	1,93,10,000

16. *Stamps*.—The actual receipts in 1906-07 were Rs. 1,47,06,698. The actuals in the first eleven months of the current year, exclusive of those from unified stamps used as receipt stamps, show an increase of Rs. 9,14,000 over those in the corresponding period of last year. The share of these stamps creditable under this head is Rs. 4,70,000, and the total revised estimate for the current year has been passed for Rs. 1,56,50,000. Allowing for a progressive increase of 6 lakhs, the estimate for 1908-09 has been placed at Rs. 1,62,50,000. The Provincial share is one-half, and amounts to Rs. 78,25,000 in 1907-08, and Rs. 81,25,000 in 1908-09.

17. *Excise*.—The revenue from Excise for 1907-08 was estimated at Rs. 1,68,00,000. The actuals of 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 1,60,81,392, while the figures for the first ten months of 1907-08 show an increase of Rs. 8,59,000 over the actuals of the corresponding period of the preceding year. The revised estimate for the current year has therefore been passed for Rs. 1,70,00,000; and allowing for a progressive increase of 5 lakhs, the estimate for next year has been placed at Rs. 1,75,00,000. The Provincial share (one-half) amounts to Rs. 85,00,000 and Rs. 87,50,000, respectively.

18. *Provincial Rates*.—The actual collections of Public Works cess in 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 34,91,470, and the estimate for the current year was Rs. 35,75,000. The receipts in the first ten months of the current year, however, show an increase of Rs. 81,000 over those of the corresponding period of last year, owing mostly to the collection of arrears due for the year 1906-07, and the revised estimate for 1907-08 has accordingly been placed at Rs 35,50,000. The estimate for next year is Rs. 36,15,000. Under "General Rates for the management of private estates" the estimate is Rs. 1,57,000 against Rs. 1,50,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08. The increase is due partly to the inclusion of certain new estates which have now come under management. The total estimate for next year is therefore Rs. (36,15,000+1,57,000=) 37,72,000.

19. *Assessed Taxes*.—The budget estimate of receipts from Income-tax for 1907-08 was Rs. 50,80,000. The actual collections in the first ten months of the year amounted to Rs. 42,87,000. For the remaining two months of the year the receipts have been taken at Rs. 7,88,000, and the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 50,75,000. The estimate for next year allows for an increase of Rs. 1,50,000, and stands at Rs. 52,25,000. The Provincial share (one-half) amounts to Rs. 26,13,000.

20. *Forests*.—The total receipts under this head for 1908-09 are estimated at Rs. 12,20,000 against Rs. 11,80,000, the budget estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 10,65,859, the actuals of 1906-07. It is expected that there will be an increase in the sale of timber in Singhbhum and the Sundarbans. The Provincial share is one-half, and amounts to Rs. 6,10,000.

21. *Registration*.—The budget estimate under this head for 1907-08 was Rs. 11,90,000. The collections during the first ten months of the current year show an increase of Rs. 84,000 over those of the corresponding period of the preceding year; and as the actuals of 1906-07 were Rs. 12,25,432, the revised estimate has been placed at Rs. 13,40,000, while the estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 14,20,000, after providing for a normal increase of Rs. 80,000 over the revised estimate for the current year. The increase in the current year is attributed to the increased number of registrations on account of high prices of food-grains. The receipts of this Department are wholly Provincial.

22. *Interest.*—The estimate of loans as passed by the Government of India provides for a return of Rs. 5,67,000, thus :—

	Rs.
Interest on advances to cultivators	2,77,000
„ on drainage and embankment advances	33,000
„ on loans to land-holders	17,000
„ „ to Municipalities and District Boards, etc. ..	1,89,000
Miscellaneous accounts	51,000
Total ...	5,67,000

23. *Law and Justice.—Courts of Law.*—The actuals of last year amounted to Rs. 5,73,507, and the revised estimate for the current year has been taken at Rs. 5,89,000, with reference to the actuals of the first ten months of the year. During the current year there has been a falling off under "General Fees, Fines and Forfeitures," but this is not expected to continue, and the receipts for next year have been estimated at Rs. 5,97,000.

24. *Jails.*—The estimate under this head is Rs. 12,50,000 against Rs. 11,80,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 12,07,552, the actuals of 1906-07.

25. *Police.*—The estimate under this head amounts to Rs. 1,40,000 against Rs. 1,49,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs 1,38,965, the actuals of 1906-07. The revised estimate includes the sale-proceeds of Government promissory notes held in deposit on account of a building for the use of the Superintendent of Police, Chitpur.

26. *Ports and Pilotage.*—This is a new head adopted to show separately the transactions in the Civil Department connected with the administration of ports, coast lights and other cognate matters, as distinguished from those of the Navy, which have hitherto been grouped together in the public accounts under "Marine." The transactions of the Navy alone which are under the administrative control of the Army and Military Supply Departments, will continue to be shown under "Marine." The actual receipts in the Civil Department under this head in 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 15,39,508, and the budget estimate for 1907-08 was Rs. 15,90,000. This has been reduced to Rs. 15,00,000 in the revised estimate, with reference to the actuals of the first ten months of the current year. The estimate for next year has been passed for Rs. 16,00,000, as larger receipts are expected in view of the steady increase of trade and from the sale-proceeds of two pilot vessels *Alice* and *Fame* which it is intended to sell on the arrival of a second pilot steamer

27. *Education.*—The estimate under this head is Rs. 5,73,000 against Rs. 5,60,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 5,60,354, the actuals of 1906-07. The increase is expected from the sale-proceeds of manufactured articles at Reformatory Schools and at the Civil Engineering College workshops, and under "Miscellaneous"

28. *Medical.*—The estimate under this head is Rs. 2,54,000 against Rs. 2,50,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 2,43,355, the actuals of 1906-07. The increase is chiefly from paying patents in Lunatic Asylums and Hospitals.

29. *Scientific and other Minor Departments.*—The total receipts for 1908-09 are estimated at Rs. 3,12,000 against Rs. 2,64,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 2,82,319, the actuals of 1906-07. The budget includes larger provision for the sale of sulphate of quinine, larger receipts under Agriculture owing to the opening of new experimental stations at Sabaur and Bankipore, and Rs. 10,000 on account of Inland Labour Transport, which was hitherto shown under "Local," but will be provincialized from the 1st April 1908.

30. *Receipts in aid of Superannuation.*—The budget estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 54,000 against Rs. 4,07,060, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 62,729, the actuals of 1906-07. The revised estimate includes Rs. 3,53,000, being the sale-proceeds of the investment of the Calcutta Police Superannuation Fund now abolished.

31. *Miscellaneous.*—The actuals in 1906-07 amounted to Rs. 6,50,180. The estimate for 1907-08, amounting to Rs. 5,85,000, has been reduced to Rs. 5,04,000 in the revised estimate, owing to smaller receipts from unclaimed deposits and to the abolition of banking fees and fees for audit of accounts of

Municipal and Excluded Local Funds with effect from the 1st April 1907. The estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 5,40,000, as larger deposits are expected to lapse to Government in that year.

32. *Irrigation, Major Works (Direct Receipts).*—The estimate under this head amounts to Rs. 24,18,000 against Rs. 23,50,000, the revised estimate for the current year. The actuals of last year were Rs. 22,97,528. The increase during 1907-08 is due chiefly to a large demand for water from the Orissa Canals in the past *kharif* season, to the expansion of *rabi* irrigation from the Sone Canals and to the realization of arrear demand for 1906-07 in the case of the Dhaka Canal. The increase during 1908-09 is due principally to extension of *rabi* irrigation anticipated from the Sone Canals during 1907-08.

33. *Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The budget estimate for 1907-08 is Rs. 5,81,000 which has been raised to Rs. 7,00,000 in the revised estimate, chiefly owing to larger navigation receipts from the Calcutta and Eastern Canals. The estimate for next year is Rs. 6,22 000.

34. *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The receipts for 1908-09 are estimated at Rs. 3,00,000 against Rs. 2,75,000 and Rs. 3,60,000 being, respectively, the sanctioned and revised estimates for 1907-08. The revised estimate includes larger receipts from rent of buildings and the Calcutta strand bank and maidan.

EXPENDITURE.

35. *Refunds and Drawbacks.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 1,27,000, against Rs. 1,30,000 and Rs. 1,44,000, the budget and revised estimates, respectively, for 1907-08. The estimate for 1908-09 is based generally on the average actuals of the last three years, excluding special payments. The increase in the revised estimate for 1907-08 is due to a special refund of advance fees for country spirit shops and to the adjustment of a write-back of Rs. 7,000 credited as Land Revenue in 1906-07 on account of Government land acquired for the Public Works Department.

36. *Assignments and Compensations.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 70,000, against Rs. 62,000, the sanctioned estimate for 1907-08 and Rs. 69,324, the actuals of 1906-07. The estimate is based on the actuals of the past three years.

37. *Land Revenue.*—The total Provincial expenditure for next year is estimated at Rs. 37,85,000, against Rs. 37,75,000, the budget estimate for the current year, as shown below :—

	Actuals			Estimate.	
	1904-05. Rs.	1905-06 Rs.	1906-07. Rs.	1907-08 Rs.	1908-09 Rs.
(1) Charges of District Administration	22,41,000	23,76,000	25,80,000	27,99,000	29,67,000
(2) Charges on account of Land Revenue collections	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500
(3) Management of Government estates ...	4,07,000	4,76,000	4,58,000	4,68,000	3,68,000
(4) Survey and Settlement ...	3,41,000	3,92,000	4,03,000	3,71,000	2,40,500
(5) Land Records and Agriculture	81,000	83,000	85,000	2,36,000	2,80,000
Lump deduction ...	...	...	..	...	—72,000
Total ...	30,71,000	32,28,000	35,27,000	37,75,000	37,85,000

The increase under (1) is due to provision having been made for (*a*) the full sanctioned strength of Deputy Magistrates; (*b*) an increase in the number of probationary Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors; (*c*) an increase under travelling allowances of officers; (*d*) provision for the payment of grain compensation allowances for the whole year; and (*e*) an increased grant for the management of private estates, owing to certain new estates having come under Government management. The increase under (5) is due to the reorganization of the office of the Director of Land Records and to the special provisions of Rs. 15,000 for the reproduction of maps (Balasore and Puri) and Rs. 33,000 for the maintenance of record-of-rights in Balasore.

The decrease under (3) is due to a smaller grant having been made for reclamation work in the Sundarbans.

38. *Stamps.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 4,83,000, against Rs. 4,41,000, the budget grant for 1907-08. The increase is chiefly under "Stamp paper supplied from Central Stores," the estimate under this head being Rs. 2,56,000, against Rs. 2,35,000, the budget estimate for 1907-08, and partly also under discount on sale of stamps. The provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 2,41,000.

39. *Excise.*—The total expenditure for 1908-09 is estimated at Rs. 8,00,000, against Rs. 7,70,000, the budget grant for 1907-08. The increase is due to the provision for (*a*) grain compensation allowance for the whole year; (*b*) rent of a new ganja gola at Kinderdine's Lane; (*c*) giving partial effect to the proposed reorganization of the department, and (*d*) two additional Deputy Inspectors at the Presidency. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 4,00,000.

40. *Provincial Rates.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 52,000, against Rs. 62,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08, and Rs. 55,784, the actuals of 1906-07. The decrease in the estimate is under Valuation and Revaluation charges, and is in accordance with actual requirements. The details are shown in Appendix B.

41. *Assessed Taxes.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 1,57,000, against Rs. 1,52,000, the budget grant for 1907-08, and Rs. 1,50,230, the actuals of 1906-07. The increase is most largely due to the provision made for grain compensation allowance. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 79,000.

42. *Forests.*—The total expenditure for 1908-09 is estimated at Rs. 6,20,000, against Rs. 7,30,000, the budget estimate for 1907-08. The decrease is chiefly due to smaller provision for survey of the Sundarbans Reserved Forests and for continued reduction in departmental works in timber and other produce removed from forests by Government agency. The Provincial share (one-half) is Rs. 3,10,000.

43. *Registration.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 7,70,000, against Rs. 7,00,000, the budget grant for 1907-08 as shown below:—

	Actuals			Budget	
	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.	1907-08	1908-09.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Superintendance ...	55,000	51,000	49,000	47,000	47,000
District charges ...	5,33,000	5,57,000	5,94,000	6,53,000	7,53,000
Lump deduction ...	...	...	...	...	(—)30,000
Total ...	5,88,000	6,08,000	6,43,000	7,00,000	7,70,000

The increase under this head is due to the reorganization of the department, which has been gradually given effect to. The budget for 1908-09 includes larger grants for (*a*) grain compensation allowance, (*b*) temporary establishment and (*c*) rent of offices and purchase of furniture, and (*d*) a lump provision of Rs. 20,000 for increase of pay of establishment.

44. *General Administration.*—The total expenditure for the current year was originally estimated at Rs. 18,39,000, but in the revised estimate the figure has been raised to Rs. 18,96,000. The estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 18,76,000. The budget includes provision for (*a*) renewal of furniture at the Lieutenant-Governor's residences on account of change of incumbent; (*b*) pay of an Assistant Secretary and larger establishment in the Legislative Department; (*c*) establishment for the extension of the Port Trust Audit; and (*d*) charges for the payment of grain compensation allowance for the whole year.

45. *Law and Justice—Courts of Law.*—The budget estimate under this head for 1907-08 was Rs. 74,19,000, but in the revised estimate this has been raised to Rs. 76,10,000, with reference to the actuals of the first ten months of the year. The estimate for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 76,75,000, which includes provision for (*a*) the re-organization of the English office of the Appellate Side of the High Court; (*b*) increase in the rate of contract allowance of the Government Solicitor on account of the special Solicitor to be stationed at Simla; (*c*) a Public Prosecutor and his establishment; (*d*) a larger grant

for fees to Pleaders; (*e*) cost of typing Session Records required by Magistrates and Public Prosecutors; and (*f*) payment of grain compensation allowance for the whole year.

46. *Jails.*—The estimate for 1907-08 was Rs. 24,09,000 against Rs. 26,63,435 the actuals of 1906-07. The actuals of the first ten months of the current year show an increase of Rs. 21,000 as compared with the figures of last year, and the revised estimate for the year has accordingly been raised to Rs. 27,25,000. The increase is chiefly under Dietary charges on account of the unusually high prices of food-grains, and also, to a smaller extent, under allowances for the payment of grain compensation, and under Jail Manufactures owing to the higher prices paid for raw materials. The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 26,50,000, and includes the pay of a Forms and Jail Press Manager, and larger grants for Dietary charges, Miscellaneous Services and Supplies, owing to local requirements, and for the payment of grain allowances. It also contains a lump provision of Rs. 32,000 for the improvement of the warder service.

47. *Police.*—The following table compares the figures under this head:—

Heads.	Actuals.			1907-08.		1908-09.
	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.	Budget	Revised.	Budget.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Presidency Police ...	8,62,000	9,57,000	11,34,000	11,11,000	11,20,000	12,19,000
(2) Mumcipal ,, ...	43,000	49,000	54,000	60,000	64,000	90,000
(3) Superintendence ...	1,85,000	1,98,000	2,29,000	2,08,000	2,40,000	2,12,000
(4) District Executive Force ..	37,47,000	43,66,000	50,97,000	52,25,000	55,37,000	57,22,000
(5) Village Police	53,000	48,000	41,000	50,000	41,000	43,000
(6) Special ,, ...	95,000	91,000	62,000	63,000	73 000	68,000
(7) Railway ,, ...	1,53,000	1,78,000	2,12,000	2,46,600	2,46,000	2,66,000
(8) Cattle-pounds	2,000	1,000	1,000	600	...	1,000
(9) Refunds	17,000	6,000	1,000	4,900	1,000	1,000
(10) Contribution to Local Funds ...	...	...	...	...	..	1,000
(11) Criminal Investigation Department.	...	...	74,000	1,31,000	1,15,000	1,40,000
Total ...	51,57,000	58,93,000	69,05,000	71,00,000	74,37,000	77,63,000

The actuals of the first ten months of the current year indicate that there will be a considerable excess under this head, and the revised estimate has been raised to Rs. 74,37,000. The estimate for next year has been placed at Rs. 77,63,000, which includes a lump provision of 4 lakhs for further reorganization of the Police Department, of which Rs. 40,000 has been provisionally allotted for Presidency Police and the balance Rs. 3,60,000 for District Police. Further details are shown in Appendix B.

48. *Ports and Pilotage.*—The budget provides for a total expenditure of Rs. 17,77,000, against Rs. 15,71,000, the sanctioned estimate for 1907-08. The budget for the current year includes Rs. 4,00,000 to meet part of the cost of a second steam cruiser for the Sandheads, while the estimate for next year includes Rs. 5,47,000, being the balance of the cost of the vessel, and Rs. 40,000 for the purchase of marine stores, etc., for the same. A provision of Rs. 37,000 has also been made for establishment, mess and victualling allowances as the vessel is expected to arrive in the port of Calcutta in May next.

49. *Education.*—In order to give a correct idea of the growth of expenditure under Education it is necessary to show the disbursements both in

the Provincial and District Fund Accounts, since most of the expenditure under the latter is met from grants from the Provincial Revenues. The following table shows the charges since the year 1902-03 :—

(The figures are in thousands.)

	Accounts.					1907-08.		Budget, 1908-09.
	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.	Budget.	Revised.	
Provincial.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direction ...	68	90	90	98	1,21	1,00	1,40	1,00
University ...	...	...	2,00	87	81	80	93	80
Inspection ...	2,60	2,57	2,49	2,91	4,65	4,03	5,70	6,50
Government Colleges, General ...	4,82	4,75	5,32	5,27	5,89	5,97	6,75	6,17
Government Colleges, Professional ...	2,23	2,67	2,02	2,30	2,78	2,76	3,28	3,70
Government Schools, General ...	4,79	5,32	4,86	5,07	5,93	5,51	6,29	6,91
Government Schools, Special ...	2,17	2,72	3,11	3,45	3,97	5,95	3,86	7,15
Grants-in-aid ...	6,42	7,16	7,62	8,18	10,61	8,55	12,00	15,51
Scholarships ...	1,66	1,65	1,59	1,49	1,55	1,60	1,64	1,70
Miscellaneous ...	66	1,09	75	95	1,07	1,09	78	75
Refunds	6	7	2	22	4	6	4	3
Technical Education ...	...	...	...	...	...	35	...	35
Lump provision for Primary Education and other educational schemes ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,54	...	...
Reorganisation of salaries	...	...	...	...	...	1,41	...	...
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	43,62	...	50,57
Deduct—Probable savings	...	...	...	...	...	66	...	56
Total Provincial ...	26,09	28,90	30,68	31,69	38,51	42,96	42,62	50,01
Local.								
Inspection ...	2,01	2,31	2,40	2,13	86	1,00	87	...
Schools	71	73	76	95	1,16	1,14	1,21	...
Grants-in-aid ...	7,82	7,70	8,09	8,17	8,73	8,47	8,87	...
Scholarships ...	20	21	26	35	38	37	37	...
Miscellaneous ...	36	42	29	32	31	34	40	...
Refunds	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Total Local ...	11,10	11,37	11,82	11,92	11,44	11,32	11,72	11,59
Grand Total ...	37,19	40,27	42,50	43,61	49,95	54,28	54,34	61,60

The above table shows how rapidly the expenditure under this head has been increasing from year to year. The Provincial budget for 1908-09 includes the following items of expenditure:—

	Rs.
Auditor of Accounts of European Schools	7,000
Second Inspectress of Schools	6,000
Additional Deputy Inspectors	25,000
Additional Assistant Inspectors	10,000
Additional Sub-Inspectors	61,000
Assistant Sub Inspectors	23,000
Establishment for Inspectors, etc.	12,000
Lump provision for strengthening the staff of Government Colleges	25,000
Additional Demonstrators for the Physical and Chemical Laboratory, Civil Engineering College	3,000
New School at Karaya	4,000
For improvements in the Presidency College	20,000
Additional grants for furniture and apparatus in Government Colleges	16,000
Additional grants for workshop, equipment and electrical apparatus for the laboratories of several departments of the Civil Engineering College	36,000
Cost of proposed removal of the boys of Alipore Reformatory School to Hazaribagh	5,000

50. *Medical.*—The budget grant for next year is Rs. 27,80,000, against Rs. 22,64,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08 and Rs. 21,96,753, the actuals of 1906-07. The estimate includes a lump provision of Rs. 4,50,000 allotted by the Government of India for sanitary improvements with special reference to the prevention of plague, Rs. 21,000 for an additional Deputy Sanitary Commissionor and a new vaccine depôt at Ranchi, and Rs. 30,000 for a special Engineering Division and additional Medical Officers for making enquiries of a systematic and organized character as recommended by the Drainage Committee. It also includes a provision of Rs. 10,000 for the improvement of the pay and position of Civil Hospital Assistants, larger grants for diet of patients in hospitals, for the appointment of a whole-time Professor of Biology, and for a probationary Chemical Examiner and an Assistant Chemical Examiner.

51. *Political.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 50,000, against Rs. 48,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08 and Rs. 41,248, the actuals of 1906-07.

52. *Scientific and other Minor Departments.*—The expenditure under this head is estimated at Rs. 12,78,000, against Rs. 10,50,000, the budget estimate for 1907-08 and Rs. 9,73,961, the actuals of 1906-07. Provision has been made in the budget for the following charges:—

	Rs.
Recurring cost of experimental farms	25,000
Annual grant for Fraserganj farm	3,000
Ditto Kalimpong farm	5,000
Maintenance of Government gardens in and near Calcutta ...	48,000
Provincialisation of Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	19,000
Lump provision for fittings and furniture of Agricultural College	50,000
Improvement of Silk industry	22,000
Purchase of cinchona bark	50,000
Rebuilding the office in the Darjeeling Botanic Garden ...	5,000
Additional Establishment for the revision of the District Gazetteers	14,000

53. *Superannuation.*—The charges under this head rise year after year, owing to the increase in the number of claims to pension. The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 26,81,000, against Rs. 25,97,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08 and Rs. 24,86,467, the actuals of 1906-07.

54. *Stationery and Printing.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 12,92,000, against Rs. 13,66,000, the revised estimate for 1907-08 and Rs. 12,85,202, the actuals of 1906-07. The following table compares the figures:—

Heads.	Actuals.	Revised Estimate.	Budget Estimate.
	1906-07.	1907-08.	1908-09.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Stationery Office at the Presidency ...	63,503	6 ,000	69,000
Stationery purchased in the country ...	33,584	31,000	37,000
Government Presses	4,83,453	5,75,000	5,14,200
Printing at Private Presses ...	2,715	2,000	3,000
Stationery supplied from Central Stores ...	7,01,191	6,89,000	6,68,000
Refunds	696	1,060	800
Total ...	12,85,202	13,66,000	12,92,000

55. *Miscellaneous.*—The budget estimate under this head for 1907-08 was Rs. 3,70,000, but in the revised estimate this has been raised to Rs. 4,97,000. The increase is due to the purchase of a trawler in England in connection with the Fisheries enquiry, and to special refunds owing to the reduction in the rate of interest on the Howrah and Rajapur Drainage advances from 5 to 4 per cent., with retrospective effect, under Act II of 1902, and to the actual maintenance charges being found much less than the amount estimated at the time of their capitalization. The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 3,93,000, and includes Rs. 1,00,000 for the Fisheries enquiry and Rs. 17,000 for grants to District Boards for general purposes.

56. *Irrigation—Major Works (Working Expenses).*—The actual expenditure during 1906-07 was Rs. 11,88,907 and Rs. 11,04,000 was passed as the budget grant for 1907-08. During the year there were floods which necessitated larger expenditure on repairs. The maintenance charges were also high, and the revised estimate has now been placed at Rs. 13,49,000. The grant for 1908-09 has been passed for Rs. 12,75,000, which includes Rs 50,000 for clearance of silt in the Midnapore Canal and Rs. 25,000 for the renewal of plant in the Dehri workshop, Sone Canals.

57. *Irrigation—Major Works—Interest on debt.*—The budget estimate for 1907-08 was Rs. 24,52,000, but owing to the reduction in the rate of interest on the productive portion of the debt in reference to the average incidence of interest actually paid in each year, the revised estimate for 1907-08 has been reduced to Rs. 21,23,000, and the budget estimate for 1908-09 has been placed at Rs. 21,24,000.

58. *Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation in charge of the Public Works Department.*—The actual charges in 1906-07 were Rs. 19,00,731, while the budget grant for 1907-08 was Rs. 19,00,000. This included Rs. 27,000 on account of the balance of the cost of the suction dredger brought out from England, Rs. 3,00,000 for a canal to connect the Bhangore Canal with the Calcutta Canal and Rs. 1,28,000 as a reserve for unforseen requirements. The revised estimate for 1907-08 has been passed for Rs. 18,33,000, while the estimate for 1908-09 has been placed at Rs. 20,26,000. The budget includes Rs. 25,000 for raising the Pattamundi Canal flood bank, Rs 2,01,000 for the Dhappa-Bamanghatta Canal, Rs. 2,30,000 for the Madaripur Bhil project, Rs. 45,000 for a new bridge in place of the existing one over the Circular Canal on the Barrackpore Road, and Rs. 1,60,000 for repairs to the breaches caused by floods in the embankments in the Midnapore district.

59. *Civil Works in charge of the Civil Department.*—The estimate for 1908-09 is Rs. 21,35,000. This includes provision for grants to Excluded Local Funds and Municipalities (Rs. 7,49,000), and to District Funds and District Road Funds (Rs. 12,76,000), which were hitherto adjusted under Contributions from Provincial to Local.

60. *Civil Works.*—The estimate of expenditure in charge of the Public Works Department for 1908-09 has been placed at Rs. 55,71,000, which is distributed thus:—

	Rs.
Original Works	29,37400
Repairs	15,58,600
Establishment	10,00,829
Tools and Plant	74,171
Total ...	55,71,000

The allotment for Original Works includes the following grants:—

	Rs.
Surgical Block, Medical College, Calcutta	2,30,500
New Presidency Jail, Alipore	1,50,000
Purchase of Ross Distillery, Howrah	1,25,000
Agricultural College, Sabour	1,00,000
Double-storied Ward, Campbell Hospital	97,600
Paying Patients' Ward, General Hospital	49,000
Civil Court Buildings, Darbhanga	60,000
Double-storied Judge's Court, Arrah	50,000
Improvements in Sleeping Ward, Midnapore Jail ...	60,000
Leadsmen's Quarters, Kidderpore	99,000
Deputy Commissioner's Court, Angul	20,000
Treble Munsifi, Kushtia	30,000
Subdivisional Courts, Sassaram	30,000
New Zilla School, Chaibasa	30,000
Cholera Ward, Medical College	24,000
New Hospital in Purnea Jail	22,000
High Level Tista Valley Road	61,000
Cuttack-Sambalpur Road	35,000
Purchase of Duff's College for Calcutta Police	2,00,000
Subdivisional buildings, including Assistant Surgeon's quarters, Dhanbaid	40,000
Civil Courts, Cuttack	25,000
4th Block, Medical College	90,000
Patna College Scheme	40,000
Khulna Jail	80,000
Jessore Civil Courts	20,000
Total ...	17,18,100

BENGAL PROVINCIAL REVENUE.

(The figures are in thousands of rupees, except for Actuals.)

Heads.	1906-1907.	1907-1908.		1908-1909.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	1,12,61,898	91,14	93,84	71,32
Principal Heads of Revenue—				
I.—Land Revenue { Proper ...	1,62,06,515	1,62,20	58,75	1,61,89
I.—Land Revenue { Adjustments ...	+12,14,548	+21,99	+20,98	+81,21
IV.—Stamps	73,53,349	76,00	78,25	81,25
V.—Excise	80,40,696	84,00	85,00	87,50
VI.—Provincial Rates	36,18,246	37,25	37,00	37,72
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	24,33,631	25,40	25,38	26,13
IX.—Forests	5,32,929	5,90	5,75	6,10
X.—Registration	12,25,432	11,90	13,40	14,20
Total ...	4,06,25,346	4,21,64	4,24,51	4,46,00
XII.—Interest	2,62,036	4,80	4,07	5,67
Receipts by Civil Department—				
XVIA.—Courts of Law	5,73,507	5,80	5,80	5,97
XVII.—Jails	12,07,552	12,51	11,80	12,50
XVII.—Police	1,38,965	1,41	1,49	1,40
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	15,39,308	15,90	15,00	16,00
XIX.—Education	5,60,354	5,93	5,60	5,73
XX.—Medical	2,43,355	2,38	2,50	2,54
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	2,82,319	3,00	2,64	3,12
Total ...	45,45,360	46,93	44,83	47,26
Miscellaneous—				
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	62,729	56	4,07	54
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,34,920	1,30	1,27	1,37
XXV.—Miscellaneous	6,50,180	5,85	5,04	5,40
Total ...	8,47,829	7,71	10,38	7,31
Irrigation—				
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts) ...	22,97,528	21,99	23,56	24,18
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—				
By Civil Department ...	1,18,688	1,10	1,11	1,07
„ Public Works Department...	6,60,499	5,81	7,00	6,22
Total ...	30,76,715	28,90	31,61	31,47
Buildings and Roads—				
XXXII.—Civil Works—				
By Civil Department ...	1,81,234	1,98	1,77	1,85
„ Public Works Department...	3,19,625	2,75	3,60	3,00
Total ...	5,00,859	4,73	5,37	4,85
Contributions ...	4,98,937	2,57	3	.....
Total Revenue ...	5,03,57,082	5,20,28	5,21,40	5,42,56
Grand Total ...	6,16,18,980	6,11,42	6,15,24	6,13,88

BENGAL PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURE.

(The figures are in thousands of rupees, except for Actuals.)

Heads.	1906-1907.	1907-1908.		1908-1909.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direct demand on the revenues—				
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	1,16,578	1,30	1,44	1,27
2. Assignments and Compensations ...	69,324	62	62	70
3. Land Revenue	35,26,901	37,75	37,62	37,85
6. Stamps	2,04,010	2,20	2,32	2,41
7. Excise	3,71,560	3,85	3,89	4,00
8. Provincial Rates	55,784	27	62	52
10. Assessed Taxes	75,115	76	76	79
11. Forests	3,16,244	8,65	3,12	3,10
12. Registration	6,42,687	7,00	7,30	7,70
Total ...	53,78,203	57,40	57,69	58,34
13. Interest on ordinary debt ...	2,36,226	3,10	3,10	3,90
Salaries and expenses of the Civil Department—				
18. General Administration ...	18,41,137	18,39	18,96	19,76
19A. Courts of Law	74,09,956	74,19	76,10	76,75
19B. Jails	26,63,136	24,09	27,25	26,50
20. Police	69,05,442	71,00	74,37	77,63
21. Ports and Pilotage	11,74,053	15,71	15,53	17,77
23. Education	38,50,750	42,96	42,62	(a)50,01
24. Medical	21,96,753	22,63	22,64	27,80
25. Political	41,248	45	48	60
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments	9,73,964	10,50	11,00	12,78
Total ...	2,70,56,739	2,79,92	2,88,95	3,08,50
Miscellaneous—				
29. Superannuation, &c.	24,86,467	25,71	25,97	26,81
30. Stationery and Printing ...	12,85,202	11,66	13,66	12,92
32. Miscellaneous	3,46,620	3,70	4,97	3,93
Total ...	41,18,289	41,07	44,60	43,66
Famine Relief and Insurance—				
33. Famine Relief	7,11,138	.....	.....	1,56
36. Reduction or avoidance of Debt ...	.....	2,60	2,60	2,60
Total ...	7,11,138	2,60	2,60	4,16
Railway Revenue Account—				
40. Subsidised Company's land, &c. ...	.....	1	1	.....
Irrigation—				
42. Major Works—				
Working Expenses	11,88,907	11,04	13,49	12,75
Interest on Debt	21,21,310	24,52	21,23	21,24
43. Minor Works and Navigation—				
By Civil Department ...	10,211	10	11	11
,, Public Works Department ...	19,06,731	19,00	18,33	20,26
Total ...	52,27,159	54,66	53,16	54,36
Buildings and Roads—				
45. Civil Works—				
By Civil Department ...	1,87,059	8,00	4,07	(b)21,35
,, Public Works Department...	66,93,428	70,00	71,04	55,71
Total ...	68,80,487	78,00	75,11	77,06
Contributions	26,26,296	20,10	18,70	.....
Total Expenditure ...	5,22,34,537	5,36,86	5,42,92	5,49,98
Closing balance	93,81,443	74,56	71,32	63,90
Grand Total ...	6,16,18,980	6,11,42	6,15,24	6,13,88
Provincial surplus (+) or deficit (—) ...	—18,77,455	—16,58	—22,52	—7,42

(a) Includes Rs. 5,81,000 for grants to District Boards hitherto adjusted under contributions.
(b) Includes Rs. 12,76,000 for grants to District Funds and District Road Funds hitherto adjusted under contributions.

APPENDIX A

Bengal Provincial Receipts, in detail by minor heads.

[The figures in columns 4 and 5 are those accepted by the Government of India.]

arks in column 6, except where otherwise specially explained, refer to differences between columns 3 and 5.

ecenue—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
levanue ...	Rs 2,89,04,871	Rs 2,99,33,000	Rs. 2,94,50,000	Rs. 2,99,50,000	Decrease in the revised is due to remissions suspensions of revenue.
tions from Govern- which are wholly	34,12,948	33,00,000	31,00,000	33,70,000	
eries of Survey and charges which are ... —	—95,211	7,93,000	8,00,000	9,42,000	Rs. Bihar ... ... 6,02,000 Ranchi 3,40,000 9,42,000
l Deduction ...	33,17,737	40,93,000	39,00,000	43,12,000	
divisible between d Provincial ...	2,56,87,134	2,58,40,000	2,55,50,000	2,56,38,000	
re of above (ons-	1,27,93,567	1,29,20,000	1,27,75,000	1,28,19,000	
ge on collections ument estates ...	34,12,948	33,00,000	31,00,000	33,70,000	
l Provincial ...	1,62,06,515	1,62,20,000	1,58,75,000	1,61,89,000	
nt of adjustments next page ...	12,14,548	21,99,000	20,98,000	31,21,000	
Provincial share) ...	1,74,21,063	1,84,19,000	1,79,73,000	1,93,10,000	

Adjustments—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Contribution from Imperial to Provincial—					
Fixed adjustment under the Provincial Settlement ...	5,72,000	5,72,000	5,72,000	5,72,000	
Assignment for increase in the cadre of Deputy Magistrates...	1,67,000	1,67,000	1,67,000	1,67,000	
On account of expenditure in connection with certain Settlement operations for the Central Provinces	5,000	.....	.....	.....	
On account of Madaripur Bhil Route (Maintenance) ...	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
For capital expenditure on ditto	.....	.....	50,000	1,69,000	
For Cantonment Magistrate ...	29,000	.....	.....	.....	Re-imperialised from 1st April
In connection with the Famine Relief Scheme	.....	2,60,000	2,60,000	2,60,000	
For Archæological expenditure ..	10,600	.. ...	7,000	.....	} Special grants.
Adjustment of expenditure incurred in connection with the repairs of Archæological remains at Monair	706	.....	.....	.....	
Assignment for Police reforms ...	4,00,000	8,00,000	8,00,000	12,00,000	
For Technical education ..	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	
For European and Eurasian education	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	
For University and Collegiate education	1,60,000	1,60,000	1,60,000	1,60,000	
On account of the abolition of the Patwari Cess in Sambalpur ...	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	
For continuous maintenance of Records in Orissa ...	.....	29,000	29,000	59,000	
Assignment in connection with the surplus of the Eastern Bengal districts for 1905-06 ..	2,22 622	.....	.. ...	.....	
For occupation of 2, Bankshall Street by Commerce and Industry Department ...	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	
On account of Eastern Bengal and Assam Government's contribution to the Belgachia Veterinary College .	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	
On account of Provincialization of Dhaka Canal	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	
For net charges of Inland Labour Transport in Bengal payable from the Revenues of Eastern Bengal and Assam .	.....	.....	.....	10,000	
For increased remuneration to the Solicitor to Government ..	.....	.....	36,000	36,000	
To meet extra expenditure on account of supplies by the Central Press, Calcutta, to the Provincial Presses	.....	.....	2,000	2,000	
For transfer of the control of gardens of Government House to the Superintendent, Royal Botanic Gardens	.....	.....	11,000	11,000	
For grant to the Bibliotheca Indica Fund of the Asiatic Society ..	... ..	.....	3,000	3,000	
On account of the remission of Banking fees ..	.....	.....	70,000	70,000	
For relieving the Municipalities of Police charges	.....	.....	.....	21,000	
On account of the remission of Audit fees hitherto charged to local bodies	.....	.....	65,000	65,000	
Assignment for the development of the Sanitation Department	.....	.....	.....	4,50,000	
Total ...	17,98,328	22,20,000	24,61,000	34,87,000	
Contribution from Provincial to Imperial—					
Transfer of the balance of the District Pak Funds to Imperial	2,17,780	.....	.....	.....	
For payments in the United Provinces of pensions to members of the Calcutta and Suburban Police payable from the Police Superannuation Fund prior to its abolition ..	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	
For savings under Interest on capital outlay for Irrigation works	3,45,000	.....	3,45,000	3,45,000	

—Stamps—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned Estimate.	Revised Estimate.	Budget Estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
of general stamps ...	42,94,584	40,50,000	46,00,000	47,91,000	Budget allows for normal increase.
of Court-fee stamps ..	1,09,20,443	1,07,62,000	1,06,15,000	1,10,50,000	
of plain paper to be used th Court-fee stamps ..	1,93,781	2,00,000	1,92,000	2,00,000	
on impressing documents	1,71,939	1,60,000	1,88,000	1,72,000	
s and penalties ...	20,062	20,000	20,000	20,000	
ellaneous	5,869	18,000	5,000	17,000	
Total ...	1,47,06,698	1,52,00,000	1,56,50,000	1,62,50,000	
ovincial share (one-half) ...	73,53,349	76,00,000	78,25,000	81,25,000	

—Excise—

nse and distillery fees for e sale of liquors and drugs—					
Foreign liquors ...	2,99,985	3,70,000	3,15,000	3,30,000	
Indian-made liquors excised at tariff rates ...	7,73,193	9,00,000	8,00,000	8,50,000	
ntry spirits—					
icense fees—					
Distillery	16,76,693				
Outstills	39,92,236	89,15,000	92,65,000	95,64,000	Budget passed with reference to pro increase of revenue. The increase is ma to better settlement and increase in country liquors.
Still-head duty ..	29,31,323				
Miscellaneous	86,465				
dy revenue	11,35,078	12,50,000	11,60,000	11,85,000	
um and its preparation ..	6,20,681	6,50,000	6,70,000	6,80,000	
er drugs, ganja, bhang, etc.	13,10,024	13,30,000	13,40,000	13,50,000	
Total .	1,28,55,678	1,34,15,000	1,35,30,000	1,39,59,000	
n on sale-proceeds of Excise ium	17,31,399	18,50,000	19,50,000	20,00,000	
y on ganja ...	14,71,197	15,15,000	14,90,000	15,15,000	
s, confiscations and mis-llaneous	23,118	20,000	20,000	20,000	
Grand Total ..	1,60,81,392	1,68,00,000	1,70,00,000	1,75,00,000	
Provincial share (one-half)	80,40,696	84,00,000	85,00,000	87,50,000	

—Provincial Rates—

lic Works Cess ...	34,91,470	35,75,000	35,60,000	36,15,000	Budget provides for larger receipts on of revaluations.
eral rates for the manage-ent of private estates ...	1,26,776	1,50,000	1,40,000	1,57,000	Increase due to the inclusion of new under management.
Total ..	36,18,246	37,25,000	37,00,000	37,72,000	

II.—Assessed Taxes—

luctions by Government from alaries and pensions, etc. ...	4,20,982	4,20,000	4,24,000	4,30,000	
luctions by Government from nterest on Government securi-es	21,801	20,000	22,000	22,000	
luctions from salaries, etc., aid by local authority or ompany	58,387	60,000	58,000	58,000	
ome-tax on securities of local uthority or company ...	1,02,747	1,00,000	1,03,000	1,03,000	
linary collections ...	42,44,128	44,65,000	44,49,000	45,93,000	Budget allows for normal increase.
alties	11,114	12,000	11,000	11,000	
scellaneous	8,103	6,000	5,000	8,000	
Total ...	48,67,263	50,80,000	50,75,000	52,25,000	

IX.—Forests—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08		1908-09	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency ...	46,155	50,500	42,600	23,600	
Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers ...	9,82,885	10,81,500	10,65,600	11,56,200	Increase expected from the sal Singhbhum and Sundarbans.
Confiscated drift and waif wood	4,085	4,000	4,700	4,100	
Miscellaneous	32,734	44,000	37,100	36,100	
Total ...	10,65,859	11,80,000	11,50,000	12,20,000	
Provincial share (one-half) ...	5,32,929	5,90,000	5,75,000	6,10,000	

X.—Registration—

Fees for registering documents...	11,37,637	11,05,000	12,45,000	13,18,000	
Fees for copies of registered documents	32,095	30,000	36,000	40,000	
Miscellaneous	55,799	55,000	59,000	62,000	
Total ...	12,25,132	11,90,000	13,40,000	14,20,000	Budget provides for normal in crease in the revised is att larger number of registration high prices of food grains.

XII.—Interest—

Class I.—Interest on advances to cultivators—					
On advances to cultivators under Land Improvement Loans Act .	25,138				
On advances to cultivators under Agriculturists' Loans Act, XXII of 1884	27,094	1,64,000	1,99,000	2,77,000	
On loans to Co-operative Credit Societies	76	63	50	400	
Class II—Interest on advances under Special Laws—					
On drainage and embankment advances ...	—13,304	58,000	31,000	33,000	Revised based on the outstanding excluding the advances on ac Hât Drainage. Budget based
Class III—Interest on loans to land-holders, etc. ...	10,841	14,000	17,000	17,000	of interest due next year on th and on the probable amoun estimated to be made in that
Class IV—Interest on loans to Municipal and other public Corporations (excluding Presidency Corporations) ...	1,52,612	1,94,000	1,69,000	1,89,000	the advances on account o Drainage
Interest on Government securities	7,046	7,000	7,000	7,000	
Miscellaneous—					
Interest on arrears of Public Works Cess	38,493	37,400	36,000	36,000	
Other items	17,720	3,000	6,000	6,000	The actuals of 1906-07 included int tures of the Calcutta Police F Fund which were sold off in 190
Interest on zamindari embankment recoveries, etc. .	1,320	2,600	2,000	2,000	
Total Miscellaneous ...	57,533	43,000	44,000	44,000	
Deduct for rounding ..	.. ...	63	50	400	
Total ...	2,62,036	4,80,000	4,67,000	5,67,000	

—Law and Justice—Courts of Law—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate	Budget estimate	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	
ceeds of unclaimed and ted property ...	28,611	30,000	25,000	25,000	
es realised in cash ...	18,359	20,000	21,000	20,000	
Fees, Fines and Forfei-	4,86,840	4,89,000	4,86,000	5,08,000	
hip Examination Fees ..	25,804	24,000	27,000	27,000	
neous Fees and Fines ...	2,297	2,000	2,000	2,000	
neous	11,896	16,000	19,000	16,000	
Total	5,73,507	5,80,000	5,80,000	5,97,000	Revised based on the actuals of the firs months

—Jails—

. ... ..	14,037	21,000	13,000	16,000	
nufactures	11,93,515	12 30,000	11,67,000	12,36,000	
Total ...	12,07,552	12,51,000	11,80,000	12,50,000	Revised based on the actuals of ten months.

—Police—

pplied to Public Depart- Private Companies and s	30,792	30,000	28,000	30,000	
y Police ...	76,232	80,000	75,000	77,000	
s on account of Village	492	1,000	... .	1 000	
es and Forfeitures ..	25,359	2.,000	26,000	26,000	
nuation receipts .	1	.. ...	.. ...	... ..	
neous ...	6,089	6,000	20,000	6,000	The increase in the revised is due to the ad ment of the sale proceeds of Govern Promissory notes held in deposit on accoun building for the use of the Superinter Police, Chittpur.
Total ..	1,38,965	1,41,000	1,49,000	1,40,000	Revised based on the actuals of 12 months e January 1908.

—Ports and Pilotage—

eeds of vessels and	.....	1,000	.. ...	31,000	Budget includes anticipated sale-proceed the two brigs *Fame* and *Alice*.
ion and other fees .	73,362	73,900	68,900	73,900	
receipts { Calcutta ..	13,73,590	14,11,000	13,45,000	13,90,000	Fluctuating receipts depending on the tra
{ Balasore ...	.. ...	100	100	100	
ney for Volunteers ...	16,697	22,000	18,000	18,000	
eous—					
ions for mess-money ...	12,987	14,000	12,000	14,000	
Survey ...	44,545	50,000	38,000	45,000	
ne fees ..	8,192	8,000	8,000	8,500	
laneous receipts of the ping Office ...	6,926	5,500	5,500	6,000	Estimate based on actuals.
tems	3,537	4,500	4,500	4,500	
r certificates of inland ls under Act VI of	472	.. ...	...	....	
Total Miscellaneous ...	75,659	82,000	68,000	78,000	Revised based on the actuals of the first months.
Grand Total ...	15,39,308	15,90,000	15,00,000	16,00,000	

XIX.—Education—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Fees, Government Colleges—					
General	1,77,418	1,80 000	1,85.000	1,80,000	
Professional	47,152	48,000	49,000	48,000	
Fees, Government Schools—					
General	2,58 023	2,55,100	2,61,000	2,59,000	
Special	12,963	13,000	13,000	13,000	
Contributions from Native States, private persons and Municipalities	10,973	10,400	9,000	11,000	
Income from endowments ...	.. ...	1,000	.....	.....	
Miscellaneous	53,825	85,500	43,000	62,000	Decrease is due to the transfer of students' messes to the Calcutta U
Total ...	5,60,354	5,93,000	5,60,000	5,73,000	Revised based on the actuals of months of the year.

XX.—Medical—

Medical School and College fees	51,294	50,000	56,000	54,000	Based on the actuals of tw ending 31st December 1907.
Hospital receipts (receipts from paying patients) ...	1,11,887	1,12,000	1,17,000	1,17,000	
Lunatic Asylum receipts ...	17,836	20,000	17,000	20,000	
Contributions (from Municipalities and private persons) ...	47,729	48,000	48,000	48,000	
Medicines sold to Civil Surgeons	29	.. ...	.....	.. ..	
Miscellaneous	15,080	8,000	12,000	15,000	Based on actuals.
Total ...	2,43,955	2,38 000	2,50,000	2,54,000	Revised based on the actuals of t ending 31st December 1907.

XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments—

Botanical and other public garden receipts	2,075	2,000	2,000	3,000	
Veterinary and stallion receipts	28,317	27,000	34,000	32,000	Based on actuals.
Cinchona plantation .	2,05,978	2,26,000	2,00,000	2,20,000	
Receipts on account of experimental cultivation ...	2,206	4 000	5,000	16,000	Increase expected owing to the ope experimental stations at Sabaur an
Emigration fees	41,684	40,000	22,000	40,000	Budget includes Rs. 10,000 on Inland Labour Transport. The de revised is due to the diminution in of emigrants.
Examination fees	1,956	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Miscellaneous	103	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	2,82 319	3,00,000	2,64,000	3,12,000	

pts in aid of Superannuation—

HEADS.	1906-07.	1907-08		1908-09.	REMARKS.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
tions of Native the Covenanted ... r pensions and	Rs. 1,622	Rs 1,000	Rs. 2,000	Rs. 2,000	Based on actuals.
s of officers lent service of the econd kind ... s of persons in the establish- he management estates under 892 ... uctions of Cove- vilians lent to tates, etc., for s .. .. ities ... Marine Pension	38,826 7,932 1,680 40 12,563 66	35,000 8,000 ... . 12,000	36,000 4,000 .... 12,000 3,53,000	38,000 2,000 ... . 12,000	Based on actual demands. Decrease due to the fact that formerly no distinction was observed between appointments of officers connected with Government control and not so connected, and contribution was levied indiscriminately at the rate of one-fifth or one-sixth of salary in Foreign service. Now the rate in the case of the latter class has been reduced to one-eigth of pay in British service The revised represents sale-proceeds of the Calcutta Municipal Debentures belonging to the Police Superannuation Fund
Total ...	62,729	56,000	4,07,000	54,000	

onery and Printing—

s ... . es and other ... ... pts ..	2,243 1,00,624 32,053	1,000 95,645 33,355	2,000 92,000 33,000	2,000 1,01,930 33,070	Budget includes larger receipts from sale of Custom House publications
Total ...	1,34,920	1,30,000	1,27,000	1,37,000	Revised based on the actuals of first ten months.

ncous—

ts... ... . urbar presents and materials houses, etc. ... ent audits (of d Excluded . .	4,36,132 4 2,190 1,278 6,987 49 994	3,85,000 3,000 2,000 46,000	3,45,000 6,000 2,000 15,000	4,00,000 3,000 2,000 15,000	Budget based on past actuals. The fees recoverable for Government audits have been discontinued from 1907-08, exception for Wards Estates Both the revised and the budget includes Rs. 3,000 for commission on purchase and sale of Government securities.
... .. es, fines and	17,066 3,156 27,191	20,000 3,000 26,000	19,000 2,000	20,000 3,500	The levy of banking fees discontinued from 1907-08.
of Revenue .. ... Law charges hose in pauper ... ... matical stores ... ... eipts—Circuit- ... ... receipts on Public Works ct IX (B C.) of ... ... receipts on Government of Wards'	60,196 16,074 795 1,643 404	58,000 15,000 600 500		60,000 16,000 ..... 500 1,000	

XXIX.—Major Works—(Direct Receipts)—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Orissa Canals	5,01,729	4,79,500	5,03,500	5,10,000	Increase due to larger demand for
Midnapore Canal .	1,56,521	1,79,000	1,68,000	1,68,000	
Hijili Tidal Canal	71,515	67,000	68,500	66 000	
Sone Canals ..	15,64,819	14,68,000	15,94,000	16,63,000	Increase due to the expansion of ra
Dhaka Canal	2,944	5,500	16,000	11,000	The increase in the revised is due t tion of arrear demands for 1906-0
Total ..	22,97,528	21,99,000	23,50,000	24,18,000	

XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—

In charge of the Civil Department.					
Recoveries on account of lands benefited by embankments ...	1,14,382	1,08,000	1,11,000	1,07,000	The actuals for 1906-07 incl Budget is based on actual deman
Recoveries on account of capitalized maintenance charges of the Rajapur drainage	4,306	2,000	.....	.....	No provision made as the entire h talized outstandings was adjusted of 1906-07.
Total in charge of the Civil Department	1,18,688	1,10,000	1,11,000	1,07,000	
In charge of the Public Works Department.					
(Irrigation and Navigation Works)					
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept—					
Orissa Coast Canal ...	37,738	32,000	25,000	27,000	
Saran Canals ...	797	1,000	700	700	
Calcutta and Eastern Canals	5,03,968	4,75,000	5,80,000	5,00,000	Revised includes larger tollage rec
Total ...	5,42,503	5,08,000	6,05,700	5,27,700	
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept—					
Nadia Rivers	45,515	30,200	40,200	40,200	
Gaighatta and Buxi Khal ...	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Total ..	48,515	33,200	43,200	43,200	
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept—					
Eden Canal	29,131	20,400	18,500	20,500	
Tenr „	1,636	2,400	4,600	3,600	
Sugarcane irrigation in Bihar	2,000	...	...	...	
Total ...	32,766	22,800	23,100	24,100	
Total Irrigation and Navigation Works	6,23,784	5,64,000	6,72,000	5,95,000	
(Agricultural Works.)					
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept—					
Magra Hât Drainage Project...	93	.....	.....	.....	
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept—					
Government embankments	31,917	11,500	11,000	11,000	
Takavi embankments under contract	4,705	5,500	17,000	16,000	
Total Agricultural Works...	36,715	17,000	28,000	27,000	
Total in charge of the Public Works Department ...	6,60,499	5,81,000	7,00,000	6,22,000	

ril Works—

HEADS.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	REMARKS.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised.	Budget.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
OF THE CIVIL ARTMENT	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	
...	1,72,842	1,88,000	1,68,000	1,76,000	
pts ..	1,935	2,000	2,000	2,000	
staging bungalows					
ng grounds .	6,457	8,000	7,000	7,000	
rge of the Civil at	1,81,234	1,98,000	1,77,000	1,85,000	Revised based on actuals of twelve months ending 31st December 1907.
OF THE PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.					
eceipts ...	3,19,625	2,75,000	3,60,000	3,00,000	Revised includes larger receipts from rent of buildings and the Calcutta Strand bank and maidan.
GRAND TOTAL ...	5 00,819	4,73,000	5,37,000	4,85,000	

... ...	4,98,937	2,57,000	3,000	. .	This head will cease from 1st April 1908. Rupees 3,000 included in the revised represent the refund of the advance made to the District Board of the 24-Parganas on account of the Magrahât drainage.

APPENDIX B.

Bengal Provincial Expenditure, in detail by minor heads.

The figures in columns 4 and 5 are those accepted by the Government of India.

The remarks in column 6, except where otherwise specially explained, refer to differences between columns 3 a

1.—Refunds and Drawbacks—

Heads.	1906-07. Actuals.	1907-08. Sanctioned estimate.	1907-08. Revised estimate.	1908-09 Budget estimate	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	
Land Revenue	17,566	20,000	28,000	20,000	The increase in the revised is due to th ment of a write back of Rs. 7,000 cr Land Revenue in 1906-07 on ac Government land acquired for the Works Department.
Stamps	72,478	75,000	75,000	75,000	
Excise	6,015	10,000	20,000	10,000	The increase in the revised is due to refund on account of advance fees of spirit shops.
Assessed Taxes	9,013	12,000	10,000	10,200	
Forest	722	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Provincial Rates	9,433	10,000	7,000	8,000	
Registration	2,352	2,000	3,000	3,000	
Total ...	1,16,578	1,30,000	1,44,000	1,27,000	Revised based on the actuals of twelv ending December 1907 Budget based on the average actuals of last thr excluding special payments.

2.—Assignments and Compensations—

Pension in lieu of resumed lands	1,441	2,000	2,000	2,500	Estimate based on the claims taken Accountant-General's books.
Malikana	67,568	60,000	60,000	67,500	Estimate based on the actuals of past thr
Excise Compensation ...	346	.....	150	150	
Rounding ..	... ..	.....	—150	—150	
Total ...	69,324	62,000	62,000	70,000	

3.—Land Revenue—

Charges of District Administration—					
General Establishment ...	22,31,414	25,30,000	23,85,000	25,40,000	Provision has been made for the payment compensation allowance throughout the for the full cadre of Deputy Magistrat saving in the revised is under salaries.
Subdivisional Establishment	1,08,262	1,02,000	1,12,000	1,13,500	Budget includes provision for the paymen compensation allowance throughout t and for additional establishments.
Partition Establishment ...	27,024	—2,000	.....	—2,000	
Process-serving Establishment	1,49 341	1,38,000	1,53,000	1,55,000	Ditto ditto ditto
Record-room (or copy-making) Establishment ...	46,180	40,000	45,000	35,000	
Survey of Waste Lands ..	2,557	.....	.....	.....	
Management of Private Estates under Act X of 1892 .. .	25,528	29,000	28 000	35,500	Increase due to establishments for ne coming under Government managemen
Lump provision for increase of pay of Ministerial Establishment ...	.....	1,40,000	.....	1 40,000	
		29,77,000		30,17,000	
Deduct—Probable savings	.....	1,78,000	.....	50 000	
Total ...	25,80,326	27,99 000	27,28,000	29,67,000	Revised is based on the actuals of ten months.
Charges on account of Land Revenue Collections ...	1,432	1,200	1,000	1,500	
Management of Government Estates—					
Collection of Revenue ...	2,29,981	2,03 000	2,27,000	2,28,000	
Outlay on improvements ...	2,27,480	2,65,000	2,46,000	1,99,000	Smaller grant for reclamation works in bans.
Grants to District Road Fund, Sonthal Parganas, for improvements in Government Estates.					

evenue—concluded.

HEADS.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	REMARKS.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
ttlement—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Office (survey) ...	6,628	.....	6,000	...	
operations—					
awing Office ...	63,975	24,307	61,000	46,911	
ations ...	72,121	30,503	7,000	53,798	
lement operations	1,16,571	49,028	49,000	80,000	
ditto ...	1,43,772	1,70,522	1,70,000	1,03,847	
Imperial on account of survey and settlement operations					
Government and estates ...	... ..	6,000	.. ...	6,000	
		2,70,860		2,40,556	
r rounding ...	.....	60	...	56	
Total ...	4,03,067	2,70,800	2,84,000	2,40,500	Budget based on actual requirements.
nce ...	36,872	22,000	40,000	28,000	Increase due to the reorganisation of the office of the Director of Land Records.
ges ...	47,748	2,14,000	2,42,000	2,52,000	Budget includes larger grants for the maintenance of records-of-rights in Orissa, and for the reproduction of maps (Balasore and Puri). Revised based on the actuals of ten months
Total ...	84,615	2,36,000	2,82,000	2,80,000	
				38,67,000	
on as probable	.....	.....	.....	72,000	
ND TOTAL ..	35,26,901	37,75,000	37,62,000	37,86,000	

—					
lishment ...	10,473	9,000	9,000	9,000	
sale of general					
sale of unified	216	7,400	.....	.. .	No discount is now allowed
sale of bills-of- or hundies ...	5,162	5,000	5,000	5,000	
sale of other amps ...	1,12,734	97,600	1,17,000	1,21,000	Increase in view of the increase in receipts.
Total ...	1,18,112	1,10,000	1,22,000	1,26,000	
e of Court-fee					
sale of adhesive	66,879	68,000	69,000	72,000	Do. do. do.
sale of stamps	7,123	6,000	7,000	7,000	
it for sale of	1,611	1,404	1,404	1,464	
rounding ...	.. ...	—404	—404	—464	
Total ...	75,613	75,000	77,000	80,000	
paper ...	11,832	12,000	12,000	12,000	
supplied from	1,91,990	2,35,000	2,44,000	2,66,000	The estimates furnished by the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps adopted.
D TOTAL ...	4,08,020	4,41,000	4,64,000	4,83,000	

7.—Excise—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Superintendence	85 184	93,000	92,000	89,000	The estimate for 1907-08 include an officer on special duty.
Presidency Establishment—					
Calcutta Collectorate (office)	63,118	62,508	60,000	61,812	
Inspection and Prevention ...	22,782	20,352	24,000	23,112	Increase due to provision for Deputy Inspectors.
Allowances and Contingencies	21,145	25,972	22,000	29,944	Increase due to provision for gra the whole year, and for th
		1,08,832		1,14,868	Rs. 3,000 for rent of the new *ga*
For rounding ..	.....	+168	.....	+132	
Total ...	.....	1,09,000	.. ..	1,15,000	
District Executive Establishment—					
Sadar Establishment ..	1,10,267	1,24 400	1,14,000	1,56,865	Budget includes Rs. 40,000 fo reorganization of the departmen
Inspection and Prevention	1,90,302	2,08,164	1 90,000	2,09,820	
Allowances	1 22,891	1,22,528	1,40,000	1,41,500	Budget includes Rs. 20,000 for The increase in the revised i allowance.
		4,55,092		5,08,185	
Probable savings ...	.....	—13,092	.....	—36,185	
		4,42,0 0		4,72,000	
Distilleries—					
Presidency Establishment ..	10,659	11,000	11,000	12 000	
District Establishment ...	1,16,781	1,15,000	1,25,000	1,72,000	Increase in the revised is for te lishment.
Grand Total ...	7,43,120	7,70,000	7,78,000	8,00,000	
Provincial share	3,71,560	3,85,000	3,89,000	4,00,000	

8.—Provincial Rates—

Collection of Rates and Cesses...	1,56,311	1,29,000	1,21,000	1,29,000	
Valuation and Revaluation .	91 136	93,000	92,000	54,000	Estimate based on actual requirem
Total ..	2,47,447	2,22,000	2,13,000	1,83,000	
Deduct—Proportion debitable to Local for cost of road-cess collection .	1,65,468	86,000	1,42,000	86,000	
,, —Proportion debitable to Local for revaluation		62,000		36,000	
,, —One-third share of recoveries on account of collection of arrear cesses	19,321	40,000	3,000	3,000	Smaller recoveries anticipated.
,, —Contribution for pension of the cess-collecting establishment ...	6,874	7,000	6,000	7,000	
Add—Grant to District Road Funds as Government share of the cost of collecting Public Works cess and revaluation charges	. ...	.....	.. ...	1,000	A new entry necessited by the or head Contributions from Provinc
Total .	55,784	27,000	62,000	52,000	

10.—Assessed Taxes—

Calcutta Establishment ..	86,907	87,000	85,000	89,000	Increase is specially due to pr
District ditto	68,328	65,000	67,000	68,000	made for grain compensation a
Total ..	1,50,230	1,52,000	1,52,000	1,57,000	
Provincial share ...	75,115	76,000	76,000	79,000	

ts—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
rancy and Works.					
ber and other produce removed from e forests by Government agency ...	28,589	24,800	10,000	10,800	The decrease is due to the continued reduction in departmental works.
ber and other produce removed from e forests by consumers and purchasers	91,985	88,200	1 0,000	97,700	The increase in the Budget is due to increased cost of coal and repairs of launches, and for better provision for supervision of fellings in the Sundarbans Division.
iscated drift and aif-wood of leased forests id payment to shareolders in forests anaged by Government	620 27,030	1,300	1,700	1,300	No payment of the share of profits to the Raja of Porahat will be due.
stock, stores, tools d plant ..	14,529	26,700	17,900	40,500	Revised estimate includes part cost of a new steam-launch for the Sundarbans Division, and the Budget includes Rs. 28,000, for the completion of the launch.
nunications and ndings ... reation, improvent and extension forests .. llaneous ...	76,116 82,644 7,426	89,000 1,94,900 4,100	54,000 1,20,300 6,000	79,000 81,779 7,400	
robable savings ...	.....	.....	.. ...	3,18,479 21,479	
Conservancy and	3,27,939	4,29,000	2,99,000	2,94,000	
establishment.					
s	2,43,211	2,19,700	2,53,000	2,62,000	Increase in the Revised is due to the reorganisation of the Imperial Service and back promotions.
ances ... gencies ...	48,837 12,472	38,000 13,300	60,000 12,000	51,000 13,000	Both the budget and the revised include provision for grain compensation allowance.
tablishment ...	3,04 550	3,01,000	3,25,000	3,26,000	
and B	6,32,489	7,30,000	6,24,000	6,20,000	
are (one-half) ..	3,16,244	3,65,000	3,12,000	3,10,000	

12.—Registration—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Superintendence	48,863	47,000	48,000	47,000	
District Charges—					
Calcutta	30,644	26,000	33,000	31,000	Budget provides for larger grant establishment, and for grain allowance. Revised includes high under Salaries and charges for ance.
District Sub-Registrars ...	1,60,305	1,57,500	2,27,000	1,80,000	Budget includes a lump provisio against Rs. 10,000 in 1907-08 f pay of establishment, and for la temporary establishment and grai allowance The increase in under Temporary Establishment, sation Allowance and Rents, Rs and office expenses. There is h sponding decrease under Sub-Reg
Sub-Registrars	4,01,003	4 69,000	4,21,000	5,40,500	Budget provides for larger gran rary establishment and grain allowance. It also includes la rent of offices and for purchase
Ex-officio Sub-Registrars ...	1,872	1,500	1,000	1,500	and for increase in the number of
Total District charges ...	5,93 824	6,53,000	6,82,000	7,53,000	
Lump reduction as probable savings	...	.. ...	.	8,00,000 30,000	
Total ..	6,42,687	7,00,000	7,30,000	7,70,000	

13.—Interest on Ordinary Debt—

Interests on Provincial Advance and Local Account ...	2,86,226	3,10,000	3,10,000	3,90,000	Based on the estimated mean balance of loans (excluding the District Board of 24-Parganas f drainage) carrying interest at 8 annum.

18.—General Administration—

Salary of Lieutenant-Governor	1,01,341	96,000	96,000	96,000	
Staff and household of Lieutenant-Governor	1,19,844	86,000	1,26,000	94,000	Provision has been made for furniture, on account of change Revised includes Rs. 30,000 fo Darbar Hall at Belvedere.
Expenditure from contract allowance	50,000	50,000	66,000	50,000	
Tour expenses ...	1,927	2,000	4,000	2,000	
Legislative Department ...	76,693	75 000	85,000	91,000	Budget includes pay of an Assis and for larger establishment a
Civil Secretariat	6,13,470	6,23,000	6,40,000	6,41,000	Provision has been made for larger allowances for the provision of gr tion and travelling allowances.
Board of Revenue	3,13,933	3,01,000	3,21,000	3,16,000	Provision has been made for the tablishment of the Controller of and for the increase of pay of cop
Commissioners	5,13,084	5,03,000	4,77,000	4,88,000	Decrease in the revised is for nor the provision for division of Patn for savings in the grant for revision Panchayet.
Civil Officers of Account and Audit	47,846	53,000	81,000	98,000	Budget includes Rs. 18,800 for the Port Trust Audit. The figures f 1907-08 represent net charges afte audit fees recovered from the These recoveries will no longer be figures for 1908-09 and the revis 1907-08 represent gross charge.
House allowance of officers in Calcutta	.....	50,000	.. ...	.....	Provided for under several heads.

rts of Law—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
... ...	7,15,120	7,51,000	7,13,000	7,52,000	
le	2,73,431	2,72,000	2,67,000	2,78,000	The increase is partly for increments and partly for increase in the Municipal tax.
ade	2,78,463	2,88,000	2,79,000	2,98,000	The increase is partly for lump provision for reorganization of the English Office and for provision for grain compensation allowance
Establishment ...	51,768	41,000	48,000	41,000	
... ...	24,972	25,000	26,000	25,000	
Total ...	13,41,254	13,87,000	13,33,000	13,97,000	
al Officers ...	93,658	99,000	1,41,000	1,23,500	The increase is due to the increase in the rate of contract allowance of Government Solicitor on account of services of the special Solicitor to be stationed at Simla
membrancer and nt Pleaders ...	89,777	92,000	1,12,000	1,16,000	The increase is due to provision being made for a Public Prosecutor and his establishment and for larger grant for fees to Pleaders
stablishment ...	2,21,500	1,47,000	2,12,000	1,86,500	The increase is due to larger grant for fees to Pleaders in view of the actuals.
Total ...	4,04,935	3,38,000	4,65,000	4,26,000	The revised is based on the actuals of twelve months ending December 1907
... ...	7,839	8,000	8,000	8,000	
gistrates—					
ice Court ..	1,07,908	1,10,000	1,21,000	1,18,000	Increase is for the appointment of a fourth Presidency Magistrate, for increased grant for charges of Mufassal witnesses attending High Court and for contingencies
gistrate ..	647	.. ..	.. ..	7,000	The charge for salary only under the new arrangement is recovered from the Corporation while Government has to pay for establishment and contingencies.
ons Courts—					
Sessions Judges...	8,65,128	8,49,995	8,66,000	8,39,050	
Judge ..	4,41,962	4,51,191	4,40,000	4,47,110	
all Cause Court	18,184	14,052	19,000	13,376	
... ...	10,28,165	10,82,858	10,28,000	10,38,937	The increase is under Establishment.
... ...	93,766	33,400	1,28,000	1,13,000	The increase is chiefly for grain compensation allowance and partly for travelling allowance.
Services ...	2,76,985	2,58,600	2,95,000	2,80,000	The increase is based on actuals. It includes cost of typing Sessions records required by Magistrates and Public Prosecutors
s ...	91,775	1,02,306	1,03,000	1,04,300	
ng Establishment	4,54,511	4,48,298	4,83,000	4,83,768	The increase is for grain compensation allowance.
bable savings ...	.. ..	—91,210	...	—67,171	
Total ..	32,70,705	31,00,000	35,62,000	32,53,000	The revised is based on ten months' actuals.
rt of Small Causes	1,71,625	1,60,000	1,92,000	1,75,000	Budget includes larger grant for contingencies and grain allowance
blishment ..	18,26,436	18,26,000	18,76,000	19,60,000	Larger provision made for travelling and grain allowances and for normal increase under re-memeration to cojists and contingencies.
Establishment .	1,08,252	1,02,000	1,12,000	1,13,000	*Vide* explanation under Land Revenue.
ng Establishment	99,560	92,000	1,02,000	1,03,000	
hals, Orissa ...	1,472	...	2,000	.. ..	
able savings ...	.. ..	.. ..	.....	—500	
Total ...	20,35,720	20,20,000	21,92,000	21,16,000	
mination charges	13,338	13,000	14,000	14,000	
.. ..	53,286	58,000	53,000	55,000	
for increase of erial Establish-	.....	2,17,000	.....	2,17,000	
				77,82,000	
ion for probable	... ..	... ..	... .	1,07,000	
Total ...	74,09,956	74,19,000	76,10,000	76,75,000	

9B.—Jails—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	
Superintendence	57,830	60,000	56,500	57,000	The sanctioned estimate for 1907-08 provision for the revision of Jail Code.
Establishments—					
Superintendent's and Jailors	1,89,653	2,02,000	1,89,000	1,97,000	Estimate reduced in view of past actua
Medical Establishment ...	30,622	29,000	30,000	30,000	
Clerical, Educational and Mechanical Establishments	220	400	400	400	
Warder Establishment ..	1,64,290	1,67,000	1,67,000	1,69,000	
Menial and other Establishments	10,522	9,600	10,000	10,000	
Dietary Charges ...	7,66,490	6,12,000	7,61,000	6,68,000	Higher estimate due to high prices grains.
Hospital Charges	67,698	66,000	70,000	69,450	
Clothing and Bedding of Prisoners	54,991	70,000	67,000	60,000	Estimate reduced in view of actuals.
Sanitation Charges ..	28,230	33,000	32,000	32,000	
Charges for moving Prisoners ...	43,336	40,000	39,000	43,000	
Miscellaneous Services and Supplies ..	1,06,134	1,34,000	1,02,000	1,10,820	Estimate based on local requirements.
Allowances	27,596	12,000	38,000	38,000	Estimate raised to provide for grain tion allowance
Contingent Charges ..	34,091	32,000	31,000	35,250	Estimates based on actual requireme
Extraordinary Charges for Live-stock and Tools and Plant ...	41,780	23,000	41,000	26,785	
Charges for Police Custody ...	13,397	12,000	13,000	13,295	
Total Jails ...	16,77,400	14,00,000	16,50,000	15,90,000	
Jail Manufactures	1,36,024	10,00,000	10,75,000	10,60,000	Estimate based on local requirement actuals.
Refunds ..	12	1,000	...	...	
Total	26,63,436	24,00,000	27,25,000	26,50,000	

20.—Police.

Presidency Police—					
Police Commissioner (Superintendence)	68,330	63,000	69,000	64,000	
Calcutta Police	9,74,220	9,35,745	9,92,000	10,20,000	Increase is due to increase in the Sub-Inspectors, European Cons Native Constables, and to provisio allowance and increased grant fo Services and Rents, Rates and Taxe
Hospital Charges ..	22,098	26,194	29,000	28,000	
Special Police	51,032	35,027	18,000	43,000	Increase due to increase in the
Cattle pounds ..	2,340	2,436	2,000	2,500	constables.
River Police ...	14,624	10,000	8,000	20,000	Increase due to the appointment o Commissioner of River Police, and
Salt Police . ..	449	... ..	...	.....	constables
Police Dead-house	1,362	1,000	2,000	1,500	
Lump provision for Police reform	...	35,000	.....	40,000	This is a portion of the lump grant o Police reform.
Total ...	11,34,376	11,11,000	11,20,000	12,19,000	
Municipal Police	64,605	60,000	64,000	90,000	Budget provides for gross cha deduction of the cash taken from Municipality which will be rel charge.
Superintendence	2,28,773	2,08,000	2,40,000	2,12,000	Increase due to larger grant for e and travelling allowance.
District Police Force—					
Salaries	4,61,750	4,70,000	4,86,000	5,50,000	Increase due to increase in the District Superintendents, Assist Superintendents and Deputy Supe
Police Force	30,27,830	30,15,000	32,38,000	31,00,000	Increase is due to the increase in th Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, H bles and Constables.
Training Schools	1,47,147	1,15,000	1,50,000	1,25,000	Budget includes fixed conveyance Rs. 6,420 sanctioned in the R
Establishment	1,08,872	1,20,000	1,10,000	1,20,000	Scheme.
Hospital Charges... ..	42,451	35,000	47,000	40,000	
Allowances	5,27,688	3,81,000	7,28,000	6,00,000	Budget includes about three lak compensation allowance.
Supplies and Services ...	5,81,441	4,19,000	5,78,000	4,86,000	Budget includes larger grants for pe tion, purchase of tents and boats, for land, escort charges and Ordn
Contingencies	1,72,131	2,63,000	1,75,000	2,65,000	
Other Police	28,380	20,000	20,000	16,000	
Lump provision for Reorgan-		2,85,000	.....	3,60,000	

Heads	1906-07	1907-08		1908-09	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	
ce	40,949	60,000	41,000	43,000	
Investigation Department ...	73,849	1,31,000	1,15,000	1,40,000	Budget includes larger grants for allowances sanctioned in the Reorganization Scheme, and for special provision for Supplies and Services not separately shown before.
—					
tary Police ...	55,760	68,000	62,000	62,500	Increase due to provision for grain allowance.
e Police ...	1,800		6,000	.....	
ia Police Depôt ...	4,841	6,000	5,000	6,500	
Total ..	62,401	68,000	72,000	68,000	
e—					
Railway Police ...	62,542	79,000	73,000	93,000	Increase is under Police Force, Establishment and Rents, Rates and Taxes
System Railway	1,18,672	1,24,000	1,35,000	1,24,000	
North Western					
State Railway ...	13,933	18,000	18,000	22,000	Increase is under Sub-Inspectors and Constables.
ur Railway ...	17,001	25,000	20,000	28,000	Ditto Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Constables and chaukidars
r Police ...	(—)678	600	.. .	600	
				2,66,600	
For rounding .	.....	... ..	...	600	
Total	2,11,570	2,46,600	2,46,000	2,66,000	
... ...	1,189	500	. .	1,000	
... ...	638	4,900	1,000	1,000	
to Local Funds	...	. .	.	1,000	
GRAND TOTAL .	69,05,442	71,00,000	74,31,000	77,63,000	

nd Pilotage—

llowances of officers					
nt	75,671	75,000	76,000	94,000	
Officers and Men .	27,104	26,000	28,000	32,000	Budget includes provision for the new Pilot steamer expected to arrive in May 1908.
Marine stores and building, repairs ships and vessels	1,31,078	1,23,000	1,23,000	1,55,000	
hire of ships and	9,770	4,33,000	4,08,000	5,67,000	Budget includes Rs 5,17,000 for part cost of the new pilot steamer and Rs. 2,000 for towage. Revised includes 4 lakhs for part cost of the new steamer and Rs 8,000 for towing *Khalas* during His Honour's tours.
ilot Establishment	7,76,397	7,40,000	7,58,000	7,54,000	Budget includes larger provision for pilotage allowances to free list pilots
lishment ..	1,02,049	1,12,000	1,04,000	1,12,700	
Steam-boat Com-					
... ...	18,629	20,000	19,000	20,000	
... ...	24,995	28,000	29,000	28,000	
stablishment ...	6,060	6,000	6,000	7,500	
... ...	2,460	7,500	2,000	2,500	Budget based on actuals.
Total ...	11,74,052	15,71,000	15,53,000	17,77,000	Revised based on ten months' actuals.

22.—Education.

Heads	1906-07	1907-08.		1908-09	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	
University	80,754	80,000	93,000	80,000	
Direction	1,20,521	1,00,000	1,40,000	1,00,000	
Inspection—					
Inspectors of European Schools	23,141	11,700	29,500	27,000	Increase due to the appointment of ad higher pay and also for an auditor for into the accounts of European schools.
Inspectors of other schools ...	4,41,561	4,62,800	5,40,500	6,60,000	Increase due to the appointment of ad Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors, Dep pectors, Assistant Inspectresses, Sub-In and Assistant Sub Inspectors and fo establishment and for increased grant travelling allowances and contingencie Budget includes Rs 2,23,615 for ins Agency in connection with primary It includes Rs. 27,360 for salary of inspec
Inspector of Hostels and Students' Messes ...	.....	3,500	.....	400	
	.....	4,78,000	.....	6,88,000	
Deduct—Probable savings ...	.....	75,000	.....	38,000	
Total ...	4,64,702	4,03,000	5,70,000	6,50,000	
Government Colleges, General—					
English Colleges—					
Arts Colleges	3,77,382	4,21,000	4,39,000	4,24,000	The increase in the revised is chiefly salaries.
Eden Hindu Hostel ..	33,169	34,100	37,000	36,000	
Bethune Colleges ..	47,789	42,000	56,500	24,000	Decrease due to the transfer of char School Department to the head general. The increase in the revised i salaries.
For strengthening the staff of several Colleges	.....	.....	.....	25,000	
Oriental Colleges—					
Sanskrit College	48,263	36,900	62,500	28,300	Decrease due to the transfer of the of the School Departments to Gove Schools, General.
Calcutta Madrassa ..	53,074	59,000	57,000	30,100	
Elliott Madrassa Hostel	4,152	4,650	4,600	5,100	
Provision for encouragement of the athletic club ..	.....	.....	.....	500	
Expenditure on petty construction and repairs ..	1,350	.....	.....	.....	
Expenditure on furniture and apparatus ..	23,646	19,350	30,000	35,000	
		6,17,000		6,17,000	
Deduct probable savings .	.....	20,000			
Total ...	6,88,682	5,97,000	6,76,000	6,17,000	
Government Colleges, Professional—					
Law Colleges	3,840	4,700	4,000	4,100	
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, Howrah	2,71,514	3,02,800	3,14,000	3,27,700	Increase due to increase of pay in consequ the reorganization of the Educational and also for increased grant for supp Services, boarding charges and rents, ra taxes.
Expenditure on furniture and apparatus	.....	4,000	.....	40,600	Estimate based on local requirements for shop equipment and electrical apparat laboratories of the several Departments Engineering College in connection with t University Regulations.
Provision for starting Training Colleges at Hooghly and Bhagalpur	3,188	14,500	5,000	16,600	
		3,21,000		3,88,000	
Deduct—Probable Savings ...	.....	50,000	.....	18,000	
Total ...	2,78,542	2,76,000	3,23,000	3,70,000	
Government Schools, General ...	6,92,830	5,51,000	6,29,000	6,91,000	Increase is due partly to the inclusion cost of Bethune School and School I ments of the Sanskrit College and the C Madrasa under this head, instead of und leges as before; and partly to increased c of High Schools owing to the re-organiza the Educational Service, also for good c prizes and for provision for grain compe allowance; and for larger grant for fu and apparatus to meet the requirements several schools in connection with the U sity Regulations. Budget includes Rs. for Primary Education and Rs. 63,748 fo schools besides Bethune School.

tcation—concld.

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	
ent Schools, Special ...	3,97,670	5,95,000	3,86,000	7,15,000	Increase is due to larger grants for salaries owing to the reorganization of the Educational Service; for larger grant for grain allowances and under dieting charges at the Reformatory Schools owing to high prices of food-grains. Budget includes Rs. 4,52,228 for primary education and Rs. 31,580 for female education. The decrease in the revised is due to non-utilization of the large portion of the grant for the construction of guru training school buildings, which has been reproduced in the budget for next year.
i-aid	10,60,973	8,55,000	12,00,000	15,51,000	Budget includes Rs. 5,51,000 for grants to District Boards hitherto provided for under the adjusting head of Contributions from Provincial to Local. The balance is for ordinary grants by the Education Department including viz., Rs. 1,89,708 for grants to primary schools, Rs. 1,56,000 for grants to girls' schools and Rs. 16,000 for hostels and mess houses.
ips	1,55,210	1,60,000	1,64,000	1,70,000	Budget includes provision for normal increase. It includes Rs. 17,200 for scholarships in primary schools and Rs. 2,000 for girls' schools.
neous	1,06,547	1,09,000	78,000	75,000	The decrease is due to the transfer of the charges on account of rent of boarding-houses from this subhead to that of grants-in-aid. This has been necessitated by the transfer of the control over these hostels to the University.
... ...	4,319	5,600	4,000	3,000	
rovision for Primary tion, including addi- Sub-Inspecting Agency r junior Inspectress, etc	...	4,54,200	.....	.....	
rovision for Technical tion	.....	36,000	.....	36,000	
nsation of the salaries icers of the Education tment ...	.....	1,41,200	.....	.....	
reduction as probable	...	(—)66,000	.....	50,57,000 (—)56,000	
Total ..	38,50,750	42,96,000	42,62,000	50,01,000	

N B.—The budget includes the following provision for *primary* and *female* education:—

Primary Education.	Rs	*Female Education.*	Rs.
Sub-Inspecting Agency	2,00,000	Inspection	27,360
Inspecting Moulvies ...	1,800	Bethune College	24,000
Circle schools	14,600	Do. school	25,000
Continuation schools	10,800	Girls' schools	8,518
Primary schools for boys and girls ...	6,100	Kurseong School	54,000
Part cost of reorganization of Lower Subordinate Educational Service ...	21,815	Muhammadan Female Education ...	1,200
Model Muktabs	3,420	Training institutes for girls ...	15,380
Training institutes for primary school teachers	4,31,000	Allowance for school-masters' wives ...	3,200
Guru-training schools, Orissa ...	7,008	Zenana Education by central gathering	4,500
Grants-in-aid	1,89,708	Female teachers' house to house visitation	8,500
Scholarships	17,200	Grants-in-aid	1,69,000
		Scholarships	2,000
Total ...	9,03,451	Total ...	3,59,688*

* A part of this is included under Primary Education.

24.—*Medical*—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Medical Establishment—					
Superintendence ...	71,002	69,000	69,000	70,000	
District Medical Establishment	4,97,071	5,10,000	4,87,000	5,20,000	Increase is specially under Salaries, ow to the increase in the number of ofl partly for increase of establishm
Reserve Medical Officers and Subordinates	17,427	20,000	14,000	20,000	decrease in the revised is under Salari
Total ...	5,85,500	5,99,000	5,70,000	6,10,000	
Hospitals and Dispensaries—					
Presidency Hospitals and Dispensaries—					
Medical College Hospital ...	2,11,519		2,31,000	2,50,000	Increase is chiefly under Supplies vices, for increased charges for diet stores and maintenance of electric plant, and rents, rates and taxes.
General Hospital ...	2,25,131	2,35,000	2,15,000	2,33,000	
Campbell Hospital ...	92,900	98,000	95,000	1,04,000	Increase is for larger provision for g pensation allowance.
Albert Victor Asylum for Lepers	22,027	22,800	24,000	23,000	
Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries	66,132	73,000	67,000	76,000	Increase is due to larger grants for diet ical stores.
Grants to Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	1,62,678	1,25,250	1,94,000	1,45,500	Increase is for larger grants.
Medical charges in connection with the Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	.. ..	....	.....	1,500	
Total ...	7,70,387	7,69,000	8,26,000	8,33,000	
imitation and Vaccination ...	2,32,053	2,21,000	2,32,000	7,08,000	Budget includes provision for revision nation establishment, for an additional Vaccination Depôt at Ranchi and fo grants under Allowances, specially f allowance. It also includes a lump of 4½ lakhs for Sanitary improvements.
ants for Medical purposes—					
Expenses during the prevalence of plague ...	81,724	90,000		90,000	
Establishment for working Clayton apparatus in the Port of Calcutta ..	.....	20,000		.....	
Expenses during the prevalence of epidemics ...	2,276	6,000		3,000	
Value of medical stores ...	330	18,000		1,000	
Grants to District Funds ...	.....	.....		24,000	This is a new head, opened in consequ the abolition of the adjusting head " butions from Provincial to Local."
Exchange compensation allowances	204	.....		.....	
Total Grants for Medical purposes	84,464	1,34,000	93,000	1,08,000	
lical Schools and Colleges—					
edical College	2,22,741	2,39,000	2,17,000	2,52,800	Increase is for appointment of a who Professor of Biology.
edical Schools... ..	1,18,375	1,23,000	1,21,000	1,23,200	
Total ...	3,41,086	3,62,000	3,38,000	3,76,000	
atic Asylum	1,31,771	1,22,000	1,48,000	1,54,000	Increase is due to revision of establis and for larger grants for grain allowanc diet and clothing.
ial Hospital	11,143	11,000	12,000	13,500	
nical Examiner ...	38,312	43,000	43,000	55,500	Increase is for the appointment of a Prob Examiner and an Assistant Chemical Exa
nds	2,087	2,000	2,000	2,000	
				28,60,000	
o deduction as probable ings	.....	.....	.....	80,000	

tical.

Heads.	1906-07. Actuals.	1907-08. Sanctioned estimate.	1907-08. Revised estimate.	1908-09. Budget estimate	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	
gents	29,970	36,000	32,000	39,000	Estimate based on actual requirements.
ent of Envoys and	.....	100	.....	100	
sents and allowances , etc.	6,519	3,900	9,000	5,900	Ditto ditto.
ous	4,759	5,000	7,000	5,000	
Total ...	41,248	46,000	48,000	50,000	

tific and other Minor Departments.

and Stallion charges	1,16,412	1,32,000	1,42,000	1,53,000	Estimate based on actual requirements. It includes provision for increased establishment for Veterinary Instruction and additional grant for contingencies.
stitute		400			
o Scientific Societies	36,000	8,000	11,000	8,000	The actuals include special grant of Rs. 25,000 for the Dalhousie Institute.
al cultivation ...	3,24,682	3,38,700	3,88,000	5,00,000	Budget includes Rs. 50,000 for fitting up the Agricultural College and Laboratories and additional grant for Experimental Farms, Agricultural Inspectors and contribution to Agricultural Associations and Rs. 22,000 for silk experiments
antation ..	2,21,951	2,28,000	2,08,000	2,69,000	Budget includes Rs. 50,000 for the purchase of Cinchona Bark, and larger grants for European stores and purchase of machinery.
ntions and fairs	14,992	3,500	3,000	3,500	
and other public	1,19,502	1,51,500	1,60,000	1,98,500	Budget includes Rs. 5,000 for rebuilding the office of the Darjeeling garden and increase of pay of Head gardener It also includes a provision of Rs. 50,000 for the maintenance of the gardens of Government House, Hastings House, as well as other gardens in Calcutta and Sambalpore
.. ...	22,107	24,000	21,000	41,600	Budget includes Rs. 19,304, being the charge of the Inland Labour Transport which will be provincialized from 1st April 1908.
Factories ...	24,803	31,000	25,000	31,900	
... ...	1,456	1,500	1,500	1,000	
nd Statistical Me-	17,812	16,000	26,000	30,000	Estimate based on actual requirements. It includes pay of Assistant Superintendent and additional establishment
of Railway traffic..	7,068	9,000	7,000	11,500	
of River-borne traffic	3,132	7,000	5,000	6,000	
tatistics ...	28,563	34,000	34,000	38,300	
and translation of nuscripts ...	6,920	7,000	10,000	10,000	Budget includes additional grant of Rs. 3,000 sanctioned to the Asiatic Society
s	1,956	1,500	2,000	1,500	
Mines	508			400	
... ...	9,771	10,600	12,000	10,000	
Co-operative Credit	16,285	28,000	29,000	35,500	Budget includes pay of a Deputy Collector employed as Personal Assistant, and larger grant for establishment.
s	.. .	18,000	15,000	18,000	
... ...	633	..	600	700	
strict Funds ...	. ...	.. .	. . .	9,000	Represents grants to District Boards for Veterinary and other charges, formerly adjusted under the head "Contributions from Provincial to Local."
				13,78,000	
ction as probable	... .	.	...	1,00,000	
Total ..	9,79,964	10,50,000	11,00,000	12,78,000	

nnuation.

ion and Retired	24,34,509	25,17,000	25,62,000	26,35,000	Provision has been made for the annual growth of expenditure.
te allowances ...	13,606	15,000	14,000	15,000	
... ...	9,963	9,000	10,000	10,000	
rtment pensions ...	28,303	30,000	21,000	21,000	
... ...	86	.....	.....	.....	
Total ...	24,86,467	25,71,000	25,97,000	26,81,000	Revised based on actuals of ten months.

30.—Stationery and Printing.

Heads	1906-07	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised Estimate.	Budget Estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Stationery Office at the Presidency	Rs 63,563	Rs. 65,000	Rs. 65,000	Rs. 69,000	Increase is due to provision for grain all
Stationery purchased in the country	33,584	38,000	34,000	37,000	
Government Presses ...	4,83,463	4,76,000	5,75,000	5,14,200	Budget includes provision for grain allow cost of stores indented for from Revised includes larger grant for p establishment and payment of grain c tion allowance
Printing at Private Presses .	2,716	1,000	2,000	3,000	
Stationery supplied from Central Stores	7,01,191	5,85,000	6,89,000	6,68,000	Estimates of the Controller of Station Printing.
Refunds	6'6	1,000	1,000	800	
Total ...	12,86,202	11,66,000	13,66,000	12,92,000	

31.—Miscellaneous.

Khedda charges	13,853	17,000	14,000	16,000	
Travelling allowances to officers attending examinations ...	6,440	6,000	9,000	7,000	
Reward for proficiency in Oriental languages, and allowance to Language Examination Committee	12,955	21,000	14,000	17,000	
Cost of books and publications	600	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Donations for charitable purposes	1,51,675	1,66,000	1,52,000	1,40,000	Budget based on actual requirements.
Charges on account of European vagrants	4,963	9,000	7,000	9,000	
Rewards for destruction of wild animals	5,764	7,000	7,000	7,000	
Petty establishments ..	2,814	18,000	15,000	17,000	
Special Commissions of Enquiry	86,981	60,000	99,000	1,20,000	Budget includes Rs. 1,00,000 for Fisheries and Rs. 20,000 for unforeseen requireme
Irrecoverable temporary loans written off	350	8,000	5,000	8,000	
Rent, Rates, and Taxes ..	30,790	35,000	33,000	37,000	
Contributions	342	6,000	6,000	23,000	Budget includes Rs. 17,000 for grants to Boards for general purposes.
Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges	5,367	7,000	4,000	7,000	
Miscellaneous refunds ...	16,776	9,000	1,32,000	9,000	Revised includes special refunds owing reduction in the rate of interest on I
Extraordinary item ...	950		1,000		and Rajapore drainage advances from 5 t cent, with retrospective effect under A 1902 and to the actual maintenance having proved much less than the estimated at the time of their capitaliza
Lump deduction as probable savings				4,18,000 25,000	
Total ...	3,46,620	3,70,000	4,97,000	3,93,000	

40.—Railway Revenue Account—Subsidised Company's land.

Land charges of the Bengal Provincial Railway	.....	1,000	1,000	.....

rigation—Major Works—(Working Expenses)—

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
nals	3,99,092	3,45,000	4,31,300	3,95,000	The increase in the revised is for higher maintenance charges—Budget follows the actuals.
e Canal	1,61,123	1,58,000	2,00,000	2,36,000	Budget includes Rs. 50,000 for silt clearance.
al Canals	51,493	41,000	41,000	48,000	
als	5,73,895	5,56,400	6,62,700	5,86,000	Revised includes larger grants for repairs of flood damages. Budget includes Rs. 25,000 for renewal of plant of Dehri workshop.
nal	3,304	3,600	11,000	10,000	
Total ...	11,88,907	11,04,000	13,49,000	12,75,000	

igation—Major Works—(Interest on Debt)—

... ...	21,21,310	24,52,000	21 23,000	21,24,000	The decrease is due to the reduction of the rate of interest on the productive portion of the debt in reference to the average incidence of interest actually paid in each year.

or Works and Navigation—

ARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT.				
nts under the control—				
shments ...	5,121	5,834		5,834
gencies	652	847		893
nance charges of the rah and Rajapur			11,000	
ages	4,146	3,276		3,576
s	65	.....		.....
ary establishment ...	4	.....		.....
ing allowance ...	12	.....		25
compensation allow-	311	.....		450
-For rounding ...	.....	43		222
in charge of the il Department ...	10,211	10,000	11,000	11,000

43.—Minor Works and Navigation—continued.

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
IN CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.					
Irrigation and Navigation Works.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.					
Capital.					
Works in Progress.					
Orissa Canals	18,824	30,700	49,000	73,000	Budget includes Rs. 25,000 for Pattamundi Canal flood bar includes Rs. 10,000 for the same w
Midnapore Canal	1,414	11 300	3 650	6,000	
Sone Canals	6,076	... ..	2,700	6,000	
Calcutta and Eastern Canals ...	4,89,794	3,27,000	3,78,000	477,000	Budget includes Rs. 2,01,000 for Bamanghatta Canal and Rs. 2,8 Madaripur Bhil Route.
Saran Canals	.....	.....	—426	.. ...	
Total Capital ...	5,16,137	3,69,000	4,32,924	5,62,000	
Revenue					
Orissa Coast Canal	1,21,111	77,000	1,18,453	1,07,000	
Saran Canals	2,852	4,000	3,300	4,000	
Calcutta and Eastern Canals ...	4,42,877	3,55,000	3,83,000	3,87,000	Budget includes Rs 45,000 for a in place of the existing one over Canal on the Barrackpore Road.
Total Revenue ...	5,66,840	4,36,000	5,04,753	4,98,000	
Total Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept ...	10,82 977	8,05,000	9,37,677	10,60,000	
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept.					
Works in Progress.					
Nadia Rivers	1,46,046	1,30,200	1,33 000	1,15,000	
Gaighatta and Buxi Khals ...	100	2,800	7,208	2,200	
Total Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept	1,46,146	1,33,000	1,40,208	1,17,200	
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.					
Works in Progress.					
Eden Canal	31,869	30,500	31,000	27,000	
Tenr Canal	3,295	3 500	6,160	4,800	
Improvement of Navigable channels—Ganges river .	4,730	.....	.....	.....	
Sugarcane irrigation by pumping at Otter	13 672	.....	.....	.....	
Total Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept	53,566	34,000	37,160	31,800	
Total Irrigation and Navigation Works	12,82,689	9,72,000	11,16,035	12,09,000	

linor Works and Navigation—concluded.

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
ULTURAL AND DRAINAGE WORKS.					
for which neither al nor Revenue Accounts are kept.					
ORKS IN PROGRESS.					
nent embankments ... ore Takavi embankments contract ... ... Takavi embankments contract	6,24,042	8,00,000	7,17,678	7,67,000	
Total Agricultural ...	6,24,042	8,00,000	7,17,678	7,67,000	
ierve	.....	1,28,000	387	60,000	
n charge of the Public s Department ...	19,06,731	19,00,000	18,33,000	20,26,000	

ivil Works—

IGE OF THE CIVIL DEPARTMENT.					
iarges	3 832	7,162	4,000	6,209	
funds	28,696	28,000	22,000	28,000	
bungalows ...	6,727	7,805	6,000	8,606	
ng grounds ..	1,166	674	1,600	1,932	
itions in aid of Excluded Funds and Municis	1,47,138	7,55,000	3,70,000	7,49,000	
iarges	.....	2,000	4,000	2,000	This is for water-supply in Angul.
for buildings, etc. ...	.....	.....	.....	64,000	
ition to Incorporated Funds	.. ..	.. ...	.....	12,76,000	A new entry opened under the orders of the Government of India owing to the omission of the adjusting head Contribution from Provincial to Local.
For rounding ...	.....	—532	—600	—47	
charge of the Civil Dent	1,87,059	8,00,000	4,07,000	21,35,000	
HARGE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.					
Original Works.					
ildings { In progress ... Not commenced	37,14,370	19,88,400 / 19,40,563	40,76,000	16,49,400 / 9,95,800	
ica- { In progress ... ... Not commenced	3,42,216	2,39,000 / 2,07,500	4,32,000	2,16 700 / 47,500	
ineous { In progress .. c Im- Not commenced ments.	1,82,236	51,150 / 95,000	1,56,000	20,500 / 7,500	
Total ...	42,38,822	45,21,613	46,64,000	29,37,400	

44.—Civil Works—concluded.

Heads.	1906-07.	1907-08.		1908-09.	Remarks.
	Actuals.	Sanctioned estimate.	Revised estimate.	Budget estimate.	
1	2	3	4	5	
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	
N CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—*concld.*					
Repairs					
ivil Buildings	5,03,567	5,00,000	5,00,000	5 08,600	
ommunications	9,17,326	9,25,000	8,95,000	9,50,000	
liscellaneous Public Improvments	67,629	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,00 000	
Total ...	14,88,522	15,25,000	14,28,000	15,58,600	
stablishment	8,46,362	8,84,787	8,75,000	10,00,829	
ools and Plant	1,31,337	68,600	67,000	74,171	
ock and Suspense ...	—11,615	.....	.....	.....	
otal in charge of Public Works Department	65,93,428	70,00,000	71,04,000	55,71,000	
GRAND TOTAL ...	66,80,487	78,00,000	75,11,000	77,06,000	

ntribution from Provincial to Local.—

nd Revenue	69,000	10,000	28,000	.....	
ovincial Rates	.....	2,000	1,000	.....	
lice	1,000	.....	4,000	.....	
lucation	56,000	2,000	25,000	.....	
edical	10,000	12,000	10,000	.....	
ientific and other Minor Departments	4,000	7,000	8,000	.....	
iscellaneous	15,20,000	.....	1,000	.....	
vering Deficit	.....	5,96,000	5,46,000	.....	
vil Works	6,55,000	11,81,000	12,47,000	.....	
mine Relief	8,12,000	.....	.....	.....	
serve	.....	2,00,000	.....	.....	
Total ...	26,26,000	20,10,000	18,70,000	Nil	This head has been abolished with effect from 1908-09.

APPENDIX C.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND DISTRICT ROAD COMMITTEES.

[The figures in column 4 are those passed by the Commissioners of Divisions.]

RECEIPTS.

HEADS OF REVENUE.	Actuals, 1906-07.	Revised estimate, 1907-08.	Budget estimate, 1908-09.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
I.—Land Revenue	.....	. ...	31,000	Represents contribution from Provincial Revenues for improvements in Government estates in the Santhal Parganas hitherto shown under Contributions.
VI.—Provincial Rates	34,05,890	36,50,000	36,16,000	Represents collections from Road-cess. Budget includes Rs 1,000 on account of contribution from Provincial Revenues for Government share of the cost of collection and revaluation in non-Board Districts.
XII.—Interest	35,242	37,000	37,830	Represents interests on arrear collections of Road-cess and on Government Securities belonging to Education, Medical and other Departments.
XVII.—Police	3,32,872	3,42,000	3,23,000	Represents receipts from Pounds.
XIX.—Education	57,798	50,000	3,92,882	Represents fees and other receipts of schools. Budget includes grants of Rs 3,81,000 from Provincial Revenues in addition to net receipts from ferries, pounds &c., which were localized on the introduction of the Local Self-Government Act. These transactions have hitherto been shown under Contributions.
XX.—Medical	36,966	47,000	63,593	Includes Rs 14,000 for grant from Provincial Revenues to the districts of Puri, Sambalpur, etc., hitherto shown under Contributions.
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	12,566	12,000	24,347	Includes Rs 9,000 for Government aid toward Veterinary establishment hitherto shown under Contributions.
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ..	1,175	1,000	986	
XXV.—Miscellaneous	1,31,105	1,27,000	1,40,223	Includes Rs. 17,000 for grants to District Boards for general purposes hitherto shown under Contributions.
XXX.—Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation (Civil.)	7,501	9,000	6,007	
XXXII.—Civil Works (Civil) ..	4,32,266	5,15,000	18,60,128	Includes grants for improving the financial position of District Boards and for feeder roads, &c.
Total Revenues	45,50,985	47,90,000	67,05,312	
Contribution .	20,77,838	18,50,500		
Opening Balance	24,59,388	30,53,877	15,66,377	
GRAND TOTAL ...	90,88,211	96,13,377	82,71,709	

EXPENDITURE.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	Actuals, 1906-07.	Revised estimate, 1907-08.	Budget estimate, 1908-09.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	6,192	5,000	25	
8.—Land Revenue ...	23,402	25,000	25,677	
8.—Provincial Rates	1,67,272	1,77,000	1,58,25[illegible]	(a) Includes Rs. 1,57,000 on account of proportionate cost of collection of road-cess, valuation and revaluation work and certificate and taxes establishments &c.
14.—Interest on other obligations ..	5,302	6,000	14,100	
18.—General Administration . .	2,27,562	2,45,000	2,37,987	
20.—Police	25,264	26,000	25,979	
21.—Ports and Pilotage, &c.			806	
22.—Education .. .	11,44,216	11,72,000	11,99,138	
24.—Medical	3,72,790	4,06,000	4,20,072	
26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	66,424	52,000	63,808	
29.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	29,402	30,000	34,717	
30.—Stationery and Printing ..	48,473	45,000	45,750	
32.—Miscellaneous . .	30,804	37,000	98,966	
33.—Famine Relief	1,30,356	1,32,000	24,000	
43.—Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation (Civil).	450	1,000	.....	
46.—Civil Works (Civil) .	44,84,496	47,26,000	40,37,540	
Total Expenditure ..	67,82,627	70,44,000	62,89,084	
Balances of Provincial savings	4,64,311	...	... ...	
Contributions	4,73,096	5,800	... ...	
Closing Balance	13,53,177	15,66,377	19,81,728	
GRAND TOTAL ...	90,88,211	96,13,377	82,71,709	

The Council was then adjourned to the 4th April, 1908.

CALCUTTA;
The 23rd April, 1908.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 4th April, 1908, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. R. T. GREER, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. P. O'KINEALY, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. GAIT, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, Kt.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. SUTHERLAND.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR, OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon'ble MR. R. T. GREER, C.S.I. and the Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN took their seats in Council.

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Oldham; Mr. Streatfeild.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MALARIA IN MIDNAPUR AND BANKURA.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Is the Government aware that Malaria is slowly advancing westwards in the districts of Midnapur and Bankura, which were quite free from it a few years ago? Will the Government be pleased to institute an inquiry into the causes of it, and prevent the further spread of Malaria, if possible?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"Government is not aware that Malaria is advancing into tracts of Midnapur and Bankura which were quite free from it a few years ago, but will cause inquiry to be made into the matter. The Lieutenant-Governor will be glad if the Hon'ble Member will place at his disposal any definite information that he may have obtained in this connection, which may facilitate the investigation. Government hopes to be able shortly to depute a special Medical Officer, with the necessary staff, to make systematic inquiry into the nature and causes of the fevers prevalent in certain parts of the Province."

MANUFACTURE OF SALT IN THE BENGAL AND ORISSA SEA COASTS

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of encouraging the manufacture of Salt in the Bengal and Orissa Sea Coasts, where Salt was manufactured before, by giving concessions by way of remission of the Salt-tax for a time, and by small subsidies to one or two Companies that may be prepared to make the experiment of manufacturing Salt again in these Provinces?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given by the Hon'ble Mr. McIntosh to a similar question asked by himself in this Council on the 2nd of February last year, when the Hon'ble Member was informed that after careful consideration in 1902, the revival of the industry in this Province was held to be impracticable, and that Government did not propose to take any steps in the direction suggested."

CHINESE CARPENTERS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that Chinese Carpenters are slowly monopolizing all Government work, and that Indian Carpenters, as a class, are slowly dying out? The European colonies object to Chinese labour, because it is cheap. Does not the Government consider that the Indians have more reasonable cause of complaint at the introduction and employment of Chinese labour, which is dearer than Indian labour?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to take such measures as may enable Indian carpenters to hold their own against Chinese carpenters?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"(*a*) There is no justification for the suggestion that Chinese carpenters are slowly monopolizing all Government work and that Indian carpenters are

[*Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

dying out. It is unfortunately the fact that Chinese carpenters are more skilful and are therefore necessarily employed where fine work is required; but the Government believes that ample employment is available for competent Indian carpenters.

"(*b*) It is no part of the policy of Government to interfere with any person of whatever race, class or creed in the exercise of his trade or profession, provided that trade or profession is unobjectionable and is carried on in a legitimate manner."

CHINESE SHOE-MAKERS.

The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose asked:—

Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that a very large portion of the trade of boot and shoe-making is in the hands of the Chinese? Will the Government be pleased to take such measures as may enable Indian shoe-makers to hold their own against the Chinese?

The Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild replied:—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply to the preceding question."

KABULI TRADERS.

The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose asked:—

Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the annual influx of Kabuli traders in Bengal and their oppressive ways of disposing their wares and realizing their supposed dues from the simple people in the Mufassal? Has the Government considered why the trade in which these Kabulis engage is not in the hands of the Bengalis?

The Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild replied:—

"As far as the trade of the so-called Kabulis is legitimate, the Government has no desire to interfere with it. There have been complaints of oppression by traders of this class, but there is no information before the Government, which would lead to the belief that the ordinary law is insufficient to meet the case."

THE CASE OF GIRIDHARI LALL MARWARI.

The Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh asked:—

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been called to the case of Giridhari Lall Marwari, reported in the Calcutta papers of the 18th March, 1908?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Mr. Lyall, the District Magistrate, ordered a further inquiry into the case of Giridhari Lall Marwari for having attested a bond on which one Chargolal brought a suit which was dismissed for default, after the Marwari was discharged by a Deputy Magistrate who held the preliminary inquiry?

(*c*) Is the Government aware that after the order for further inquiry was quashed by the High Court, a Civil Suit was instituted by the alleged debtor upon the bond to have it declared a forgery: and has the attention of the Government been called to the fact that the plaintiff in the suit admitted that he engaged his Pleader under orders of Mr. Lyall and he did not pay the Pleader's fees?

(*d*) Is it a fact that, after the bond was declared a forgery by the Munsif and while an appeal was pending, the Public Prosecutor moved Mr. Lyall for further inquiry, and that further inquiry was granted and Giridhari Lall Marwari was arrested on a non-bailable warrant issued by the Magistrate?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it approves of the District Magistrate being mixed up in the trial of Civil Suits between private parties?

(*f*) If not, will the Government be pleased to take notice of the conduct of Mr. Lyall?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied:—

"The attention of Government has been called to the statements made in the Calcutta papers of the 18th March, concerning the case of Giridhari Lall Marwari. Government has at present no information concerning the facts of the case. It is understood that the case is now pending before the High Court, and it is not proposed to consider whether any action on the part of Government is called for until it has been disposed of."

FEES AND FINES UNDER THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE ACT, 1871.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked:—

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of fees and fines collected annually under the Puri Lodging-house Act, taking the average of the last three years, and the amount of annual contribution out of the fund to the Municipality of Puri?

(*b*) In view of the important object for which the fund is collected, will the Government be pleased to take into consideration the desirability of appointing a Committee, consisting of responsible local men, who may co-operate with the Magistrate of Puri in attributing the fund to its proper object?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"(*a*) The following figures give the information asked for:—

Years.				Amount of fees and fines collected	Amount of annual contributions to Municipalities
				Rs.	Rs
1904-05	...	..	...	29,257	8,444
1905-06	...	...	...	39,297	11,656
1906-07	...	...	...	30,935	6,226
		Total	...	99,489	26,326
		Average	...	33,163	8,775

"(*b*) The Lieutenant-Governor has under his consideration the desirability of having a Committee to assist with their advice the District Magistrate and Health Officer in carrying out the provisions of the Act at Puri."

THE SAMBALPUR (EVIDENCE) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to repeal the Central Provinces Laws Act, 1879, in the district of Sambalpur, be taken into consideration. He said:—

"This Act is really a formal matter; its object being purely to bring the Civil Courts of Sambalpur into line with the rest of Bengal, as regards their

procedure in recording evidence. Formerly, the Courts were under the Central Provinces Laws Act, but now that Sambalpur has been joined to Bengal and that its Courts are subject to the High Court and are presided over by Members of the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service, there is no reason why this condition of things should continue."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD also moved that the clauses of the Bill be considered in the form recommended by the Select Committee.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD also moved that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble Mr. OLDHAM presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871.

THE BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1908-09.

IN the absence of the Hon'ble NAWAB BAHADUR OF MURSHIDABAD, the Hon'ble MAHARAJ-ADHIRAJ BAHADUR OF BURDWAN, at the request of the President, read the following speech on behalf of the former:—

"Your Honour—I propose not to make any elaborate criticism on the Bengal Financial Statement of 1908-09; but only some remarks on matters which appear to me to be of special importance.

"With regard to Receipts, I see the revised estimate for 1907-08 of Land-revenue was two crores, ninety-four lakhs and fifty thousand; but the estimate of 1908-09 is two crores, ninety-nine lakhs and fifty thousand, *i.e.*, five lakhs in excess of the current year's land-revenue. In view of the famine and scarcity in Bengal, it is difficult to understand how improvement in Land-revenue can be expected next year.

"Then as regards the revenue from Excise, I beg respectfully to deprecate the progressive increase of Rs. 5,00,000. Increase of revenue from Excise is undesirable, and the Administration should try to secure the maximum of revenue with the minimum of consumption.

"The estimated increase of Rs. 1,50,000 in the Assessed Taxes does not commend itself to me. The provision in the budget estimate gives encouragement to Government officers in the assessing department to increase the tax, and this gives rise to an idea, which the public entertain, rightly or wrongly, that the assessees are overtaxed and their valid and genuine objections are not properly dealt with.

"As regards expenditure it is, no doubt, very satisfactory to find that Education has attracted greater attention of the Government than hitherto, and the expenses are increasing. But, I venture to think that the amount provided is not enough. I regret to find that, with regard to Primary Education, only Rs. 1,800 have been provided for Inspecting Maulvies, and Rs. 3,420 for Model Muktabs. It is no doubt very kind of the Government to start Muktabs and have Inspecting Maulvies for spreading Primary Education amongst the Muhammadans, but, what I beg to observe is, that efficiency and utility cannot be secured by observing too much economy.

"Then with regard to Female Education, the provision of Rs. 1,200 for Muhammadan female education is not at all adequate. A monthly expenditure of Rs. 100 on this head cannot be expected to further the cause.

"The question of Free Education has attracted the attention of the Government, and I believe the time has come when there ought to be not only free, but compulsory education, and provision ought to be made in the budget estimate for the same.

"It is very gratifying to find that there will be special assessment from Imperial Revenue for Police re-organization, and we feel grateful to the Government of India for the liberality shown. I should, however, like to observe

that hitherto the attempt to improve the efficiency and honesty of the Police, by increasing pay, has not proved a success; and therefore the expenditure of money for the re-organization of the Police should be made carefully. I venture to suggest that the public might, with advantage, be taken into confidence for effecting the desired reform.

"Sanitary improvement of the Province is a subject to which, I crave leave to urge, greater attention ought to be paid, and a lump provision of Rs. 4,50,000 seems to me to be inadequate. I regret to find that the improvement of the Bhagirathi River finds no place in the Budget Estimate; a subject which in the last budget debate I endeavoured to bring very prominently to the notice of the Government. In view of the development of the Railway lines, as a means of communication, the Bhagirathi may perhaps be left out of consideration; but for the supply of drinking water and the preservation of the health of the large population on both sides of the river from its entrance to Nadia, the necessity of the improvement cannot be overestimated. No private successful effort in this direction is possible, and the Government certainly ought to consider the question seriously in view of its importance.

"The price of food-grains has risen very high, and there is very little chance of fall in the price in the near future. Grain Compensation Allowance to officers on small pay has been provided for, and this allowance, I am afraid, is likely to be a burden of a permanent nature. The public is grateful to the Government for the concession made in favour of officers of certain classes. I beg to suggest that the compensation allowance ought also to be given to officers who do not enjoy the privilege, on account of the pay limit. The concession ought to be extended to officers whose pay does not exceed fifty rupees per month, and will be very greatly appreciated.

"A special assignment of Rs. 2,60,000 has been made from the Imperial Revenues in connection with the Famine Relief Scheme, and, in the budget under discussion, besides Rs. 8,50,000 for Grain Compensation Allowance, provision of Rs. 1,56,000 has been made for Famine Relief Charges. In my humble opinion, the amount is not sufficient. I have every reason to believe that the Government will not fail to make adequate provision for saving the lives of famine-stricken people, who will be in need of help. The Government has got a very onerous duty, and though the public also have come forward for raising funds to tide over the difficulty and to relieve the Government to a certain extent in the discharge of its duty, I am sure the administration will successfully cope with the present situation and will not be charged with allowing a single human being to die from starvation."

The Hon'ble MR. LARMOUR said:—"Your Honour—Even if I had the desire to criticise the Financial Statement which has been presented to the Council, it appears to me that the time is somewhat out of joint for doing so. It is not, and does not claim to be, a Prosperity Budget, for we have fallen on a series of lean years, due probably to causes quite beyond our control, and we must all earnestly hope that they will soon come to an end. I am fully aware that we cannot ask for any alteration of, or amendment in, the Statement before us, nor for any remission of, or relief from, taxation of any sort, direct or indirect; but there are certain subjects referred to, and arising out of, this budget, on which perhaps a few words would not be out of place.

"The first subject that suggests itself to me, as I suppose it would suggest itself to any one and everyone having the welfare of this great City at heart, is the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, regarding which it may surely be said that 'hope long deferred maketh the heart sick,' and sick we certainly are, when year after year rolls by and nothing is apparently done. Ten years ago, Sir Herbert Risley unfolded in this Council a fearful and gruesome tale of the state of Calcutta, and his remarks on that occasion gave us hope that in the not far distant future something would be done to ameliorate the condition of affairs which he had disclosed. What has been done and how far have those hopes been justified? A year or so later, Sir John Woodburn submitted proposals for a scheme of Suburban improvement. Five years later, a Conference was held,

and in 1905 various public bodies were asked for their views, which were communicated promptly and without loss of time, and there apparently the matter ended; save that last year a second Conference was held, but to us who are not behind the scenes, it does not seem that a Conference means an improvement. Just a year ago, Sir Harvey Adamson stated in the Supreme Council that the scheme would probably 'soon' be taken in hand; but here again we are left very much in the dark, for the Government definition of the word 'soon' would appear to differ considerably from the generally accepted meaning of the word. It may be urged that a few years in the life of a nation or a city are no more than a few days in the life of an individual, and that in this sense the word 'soon' is justified; but we, as individuals, would prefer to see it applied in its literal sense, for there is not a man in this room, there is not an intelligent citizen of Calcutta, who does not consider that the sanitation and improvement of this City are clamant wants; yet it may be fairly asked what has been done during the last ten years and the answer could be equally fairly summed up in one word, nothing, literally nothing?

"In this connection, I note that so far back as 1903-04, say five years ago, the sum of rupees fifty lakhs were set aside in the nature of a trust to be utilized towards the Improvement Scheme. If, through causes at present unknown to the public, that scheme has been delayed with the indefinite prospect of being taken in hand 'soon,' that does not afford any valid reason why this large sum, if it cannot be utilized for any other purpose, should be allowed to lie idle. I am subject to correction, but it does not appear that any attempt has been made to put it out to interest. If it had been invested, say at even $3\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.*, which might have been done very easily, it would have made a very substantial and useful addition to the trust and would have been of material assistance in the financial arrangements of the scheme, when and if it does assume a practical form. If I am correct in my assumption, is it unreasonable to ask that this oversight should now be rectified?

"Another matter to which a little attention might be given is, the housing of the poorer classes of Government servants. We hear all round a great deal of the increased rents in Calcutta; we hear of the necessity of official residences being provided, and we hear occasionally of such residences having been bought. This is quite as it should be, and no possible exception can be taken to such action, so long as the tax-payer is satisfied that a fair remunerative return is made on the capital outlay. But, Sir, I do not think that what is being done, or has been done, goes far enough. So far, these residences are apparently intended only for officials on large salaries, who, it would appear to the uninitiated, are in a position to secure suitable residences, if they choose to pay for them. I speak with all reserve and only from the information placed before us; and from this it does not appear that anything has been done, or is contemplated to be done, to provide decent house accommodation for the poorer class of clerks and others on salaries of about Rs. 300 a month and under. These are the men on whom largely depends the efficient working of the machinery of Government, and these are they who are mostly in need of, and are unable to obtain, decent accommodation with the very limited means at their disposal. I trust, Sir, that some attention may be drawn in this direction, where improvement is so much wanted.

"I trust I may be pardoned if I take up a very little of the time of the Council by alluding to a subject which I personally and naturally have very much at heart, and that is the important question of industrial training, which appeals not only to a few directly interested individuals, but to every thinking man, who is concerned in the advancement of the best interests of the country. We fully recognize that Government has been no niggard in the provision that has been made for the promotion of Education, nor would I for one moment advocate any retrograde movement in this direction. Let us educate our youths by all means, even though at present there would seem

to be a considerable excess of supply over demand for men with University letters after their names, who find it difficult to obtain outlets for the exercise of their attainments. But, Sir, the man who can work with his hands, aided by his brains, will never lack for lucrative employment. The upraising of a nation will never be accomplished by platform oratory or political agitation, but will materially depend upon the men who know how to turn to good account the workmanship of the trained and skilful handicraftsman. It is in this cause, that I plead for the assistance of Government. I fully recognise that this is not an opportune moment to ask for much in the way of a grant for Industrial Training. I am also aware of the fact that some progress has already been made in this direction; but I would urge it as a matter of importance that, when we have passed through our times of depression and when it shall once more become the pleasing duty of the Financial Secretary to present a Prosperity Budget, this subject should receive more attention at the hands of Government.

"In connection with this subject, I note certain questions in the paper this morning regarding Chinese labour. I am quite prepared to emphasize what has been put forward by the Hon'ble Member, and it is certainly a fact which my experience has proved that the Indian, or more strictly speaking the Bengali, Carpenter, is being slowly, but surely, supplanted by his Chinese competitor. What the Chinaman's system of training may be I am not in a position to say, but it undoubtedly is far superior to anything that the Indian Carpenter can or does get. Again, speaking from my own experience, this gradual dying out of the Bengali Carpenter is very materially due not only to his lack of training, but also to the disinclination of parents to let their children follow the calling of mechanics. I have known several instances of Bengali Carpenters, in my own employ, bringing their sons to me to be taken on as clerks in my office, with an Entrance or First Arts qualification. Twenty-five years ago, our workmen were nearly all Bengali Hindus, and there was not a single Chinaman in our employ and only one or two Muhammadans. Now we have a large number of Chinamen, and among the Indians the Bengalis are in a very small minority. The Chinaman it is true gets larger wages, but he earns his money to the hilt; works steadily; takes only one or at most two holidays in the year; is sober, punctual and intelligent, and does not need to be continually urged to his work. The Bengali, I am constrained to say, is very much to the contrary. He gets small wages certainly, but he earns for his employer even less than he gets. As a rule, he takes little or no real interest in his work, and if not carefully watched, will scamp his job. This, therefore, is an argument which forcibly brings to the front the necessity that exists for some system of training that will improve the status of the Indian Mechanic.

"I feel sure that in taking this opportunity of thanking Your Honour's Government for the liberal grants made to the Medical Institutions of Calcutta, I am only expressing the unanimous sentiments of the whole community, official and non-official, European and Indian, alike. This is money well spent, and will invoke the blessings of all those whose lot it may be to derive benefit from those institutions."

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said:—"The Hon'ble the Financial Secretary deserves every praise and congratulation for the painstaking and sympathetic frame of his maiden Budget, and for the clear and lucid manner in which it has been handled and presented under severely trying circumstances. If it is not given to us to be able to compliment him, on what in Council parlance has come to be known and called a 'Prosperity Budget,' a phrase that I confess I have not been able to understand, it is none of his fault, but more our misfortune; and the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary has the fullest measure of our sympathy and commiseration.

"Thanks to the exigencies and mysteries of a system, that is one other thing that I do not understand, hardly two successive budgets are framed or presented by the same Financial Secretary, and the wonder is that they do it so well. It makes non-official Members look small in their own estimation

and that of their constituents, that during two years of their term they achieve so little in comparison.

"I also gladly bear willing testimony to the marked and ready courtesy of the Financial Secretary and Your Honour's other Secretaries and the Members of the Board of Revenue, to the non-official Members of Your Honour's Council, who were fortunate enough to be associated with them, in the consideration of the draft budget at the informal Conferences that Your Honour was pleased to have convened. Failing a constitutional basis for exercise of rights, in regard to preparation and control of the annual budget, such Conferences come nearest to what may, in the existing state of things, be done for giving Members of the Council an advance insight, as it were, into what would be laid, cut and dried, on the table in a few days or weeks, and which no criticism or debate would in any way alter or amend. In regard to an undoubted concession and indulgence, one is loath to offer remarks and criticisms that may be regarded as ungracious; particularly on the part of one who, almost immediately after his joining the Council was, through Your Honour's kindness, permitted to enjoy the distinguished honour of being invited to these Conferences. But Your Honour's well-known tolerance for criticism, however unreasonable, if well-meaning and *bonâ fide*, encourages me to observe that if these Conferences are to be really useful, it would be an advantage to associate with them as many of the non-official Members as would have the time and inclination to join. They should, moreover, have timely access to materials for effective study of, and comment on, the proposed provisions; and should have some slight measure of that trained assistance, which is a strong point of one of the largest and best organized and most resourceful of Secretariats in British India.

"Association with the Conferences, to which I have just referred, was to me personally an honour for which I cannot be sufficiently thankful. At the same time, I cannot help thinking and observing, ungracious though it may appear, that if the number of non-official Members invited to these Conferences was really to be limited, newer and less experienced Members like me, might, with advantage, make room for the more capable and the more experienced.

"And it would be a distinct advantage to allow non-official Members, willing to work and study, facilities and assistance in the shape of reference clerks and shorthand typists. Non-official Members are mostly busy men, generally without the adventitious aids that so largely contribute to successful under-secretariat work. At such a time of stress, amidst their own engrossing work, assistance, such as I speak of, would be of great value and would be highly appreciated. If their work in Council is not as well done as it might and would be done under other circumstances, it is really a matter for consideration, as to whether some such slight assistance might not be forthcoming. The outward and visible symbol of the glory and dignity of their office is the awe-inspiring Chaprassi, that Your Honour with great effect and felicity classed and characterized not long ago; and if non-official Legislators are to be of some use to Your Honour's Government, as it is their place to be, and not mere budget-time show things of no consequence, I would, on behalf of my Colleagues, respectfully ask Your Honour to consider whether some slight office help, of the description that I have indicated, may not be given, before it is time for us to lay down our office. Through the courtesy of the Legislative Secretary and the Superintendent of Government Printing, which I desire to acknowledge, I had prompt and welcome 'first aids' in pressing matters that I brought to their notice, the like of which may much contribute to permanent healing; this makes me think that organized assistance, such as I ask for, need not be prohibitive in costs or upset the Secretariat machinery.

"I sincerely trust that my critics will not tell me that there is no formidable legislative measure likely to be before the Council during my time; that such extravagance cannot be thought of, when money is needed for other and more pressing expenditure, and that there is no sufficient plea or warrant for such an unprecedented departure. In the very budget now before us, we have provisions for strengthening the Legislative Secretariat, by the

welcome accession of a member of my own profession, which would ordinarily connote present or expected accession of work. Shorthand typists, attached to convenient groups of non-official Members and authorized to obtain necessary information and papers from the departments concerned, would make the Members' work light, acceptable, efficient and welcome; and any slight extra expenditure would so far be a really profitable investment, if our association in Council work is to be more than nominal.

"Before passing on from the question of these Conferences, I desire further to add that our hurried and ill-thought-out suggestions and observations were received with patience and some information was supplied; some comments were made and some slight additions and alterations, in minor and inconsiderable matters, were vouchsafed. I am not at liberty to refer at length to these confidential proceedings, but am bound to say that for the most part our recommendations which, we were in the first instance expected to make on the spur of the moment and on the spot, and were subsequently embodied in notes, were put off; generally with replies to the effect that funds were not forthcoming for the schemes that we urged and that the Government was pledged to the schemes objected to, or they had already been undertaken. Thus it was, that no substantial impression has been made on the budget by these Conferences.

"Regarding the accessibility to materials, I would respectfully ask Your Honour to consider if, for due consideration of the matters in issue, in their proper perspective, it is not only desirable but absolutely necessary, that full information in the shape of budgets, prepared and sent up by the different departments, should be made available to Members who may desire to consult them. If non-official Members be regarded as the proverbial sand-grain in official optics, my plea would necessarily fail. If, on the other hand, in the spirit in which Council expansion is supposed to be moving they be regarded as valued auxiliaries, and not opponents of the departments concerned or the Government generally, they should be welcome to know all that they want to know or should know and should have opportunities of bringing home to Your Honour's Government and this Council on behalf of their respective constituencies, as it were, which for present purposes would be the various departments, their special needs and requisitions.

"In this view of things and as representing the Educational interests of the Province, I took the liberty of trying to ascertain its real Educational requirements and requisitions, and nearly all that departmental rules have permitted me to know is to be found in the published budget papers, accessible not only to the Members of the Council but to all diligent students of public affairs, interested in the question. I do not mean for a moment to suggest that a Solicitor should take a Civilian's place in the department, which, after by no means unpleasurable and unprofitable experiences of a departure which has been justified in every way, in the fulness of time is now getting back its own. But I do venture to suggest and claim that the real and living needs of the department should be better known to one who has the honour of representing the University and is supposed thereby and therefrom to represent the general educational interests of this great though divided Province; so that the views of the department might be supported or challenged if need be in this Council and before Your Honour's Government.

"And in this connection, I am free to confess, Sir, the partial weakness of my position in so far that, although I happen to represent the University interests of both the Provinces, I represent but a fraction of their non-university interests. But this admitted weakness is of no vital consequence to the points at issue, and, if anything, it proves that the University, which has before it a veritable giant's work that must be performed with a lapidary's skill, firmness and tact, should be represented on the Eastern Bengal Council as well; particularly because it is so unworthily represented at the present moment in Your Honour's Council. It is a pity, no less than a wonder, that a University representative on the Eastern Bengal Council was not

[Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.]

thought of by the framers or critics of the scheme that gave Bengal a second Province and a second Legislative Council; and may, for aught one know, give it a second High Court and a second University in time: for Education, on all admissions, is the most important interest that could be thought of or provided for by any responsible Government.

"And this, Sir, is not my own assertion, though it well accords with my views. I shall not, at this time and place, inflict on the Council educational platitudes and educational truisms that are hoary with age, for it is alike needless and useless to do so. I shall content myself by referring to the pronouncement of Your Honour's gifted and capable Secretary, the Hon'ble Mr. Gait, whose confirmation as Chief Secretary has been welcomed all round, who, in closing the last year's Budget debate, rightly characterized the Educational as the most important subject of all. In his recent able and exhaustive Quinquennial Educational report Mr. Earle, the outgoing Director of Public Instruction, says in effect the same thing, which is endorsed by Your Honour's own frank and forceful resolution on the highly interesting and instructive report. His Excellency, the Viceroy, in replying to the address of the Bharat Dharma Mahamandal the other day made similar remarks, which were repeated by His Excellency, as Chancellor of the Calcutta University, in his Jubilee Convocation address the other day. And our distinguished Vice-Chancellor who, without having had the chance of having been an Educationalist by profession, has made educational questions his life work, and whose re-appointment has been welcomed by all, more than endorsed the Chancellor's utterances. These are all pronouncements fresh in public memory. And it is hardly necessary to go back to more ancient times or to quote more interested authorities, for illustrating the truth of the Hon'ble Mr. Gait's claim that Education is the most important question of all, important from the point of view of the ruled and the ruler alike, important intrinsically as well as from the low-grade point of view of economy and expediency, political and otherwise. It is not necessary to labour points of admitted truth, except as an insurance against 'Lest we forget', and to see and test how far theory and practice are reconcilable.

"Coming at once to details which, having regard to the importance and supreme interest of the subject, I beg leave to examine at length the figures for the year under the head Education, which stand somewhat as follows:—

"In the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham's speech, laying the budget on the table, we were told that the Educational outlay, from Provincial Funds, has steadily risen from 26 lakhs in 1902-03 to 42½ lakhs in the revised estimate for the current year. We are also told that part of this increase has been borne by the Imperial Government. The one or the other statement must, however, be incorrect; for, if the Imperial Government is bearing any portion of the 42½ lakhs (which is really the case), the outlay from the Provincial Funds cannot be 42½ lakhs. Turning to the budget proper (pages 20 and 21), we find the budget estimate for the next year is Rs. 50,00,000 in round numbers, which similarly includes Imperial grants, such as those under the heading of 'University and Private Collegiate Grants,' amounting to Rs. 1,60,000. Coming, however, to the General Review (page 12), we find that the Educational budget of the year is not Rs. 50,00,000, but is so much as Rs. 61,60,000. If this was any but a mere transfer entry, we should have expected the Financial Secretary triumphantly claim, in his introductory speech, that the Educational budget of Bengal, Provincial or otherwise, has risen from 26 lacs in 1903 to near upon 62 lacs in 1908. He judiciously refrains, however, from such a claim with discreet modesty, because the figures Rs. 62,60,000 are made up as a result of the recent classification of accounts under the orders of the Imperial Government, by which the adjusting head of contributions between Provincial and Local has been abolished; and more than 11½ lacs of rupees spent on Education by local bodies is shown in the Provincial Budget, because it is said that most of the expenditure from the District Fund Accounts is met from grants from Provincial Revenues, that is, revenues which used to be available for Provincial purposes in *pre*-Self-Government times, such as receipts from ferries and pounds which were localized on the introduction of Local Self-Government.

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

"Local Self-Government is some years old, and, with increasing age, is soon expected to expand. The framers of the Localization Scheme had never thought of giving the Provincial Government credit for what the local bodies themselves would do by virtue of localization; but, apparently, the scheme is working so well that the Imperial Government thinks that to put their work and the Provincial work together as one whole would make a braver show than to let Provincial work appear all by itself. The methods of classification of accounts, now introduced, may not actually take away with one hand what the other has given; but the paper array of munificence, of which the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham would not lay undue stress in his opening speech or in the budget itself, finds unaccountably prominent reference in the General Review.

"The figures given in the General Review require more than passing examination. Whereas by way of popularizing an unpopular institution, Rs. 80,000, the gift of the Government of India, is devoted to University Education. As can be gathered incidentally, from page 2 of the General Review and nowhere else, Rs. 80,000 out of a lakh and 60 thousands more are given by the Government of India for Collegiate Education, that is, to assist the private colleges to meet the requirements of the University. Neither of these sums is anything like adequate, having regard to the immensity of the area and the vastness of the requirements. For European and Eurasian education there is an Imperial grant of Rs. 65,000, and for Technical Education there is a grant of Rs. 35,000. The total extent of educational assistance that Bengal gets from the Imperial Government is thus Rs. 2,10,000.

"Imperial liberality is not so stinted and limited in some other directions, for the state of affairs is a shade better in regard to Famine Relief, for which Rs. 2,60,000 have been allotted, and in regard to Sanitation, for which a strictly ear-marked sum of Rs. 4½ lakhs has, by way let us hope, of a beginning, been allotted.

"Imperial liberality is, however, the most marked in the case of the Police; because, for Police re-organization, 12 lakhs of rupees has been allowed, and a further sum of Rs. 21,000 has been allowed for relieving Municipalities of police charges. It can serve little useful purpose to repeat the hard things that have been said often regarding such patent disparity; and if the Police requires strengthening and re-organizing, as it admittedly does, we have no reason to grudge the necessary grants, particularly when Provincial revenues are relieved and the grant happens to be Imperial, as it well may be. A better, more efficient, less corrupt and more civil Police would be a boon that no one can reject or resent, and it ought to afford some further field of employment for our educated men by holding out better pay and prospects in its ranks than obtains at the present moment. But Education has stronger claims and higher rights that the Imperial Government has not adequately recognized, which is a grievance that we respectfully ask Your Honour's Government to bring home to the Imperial Government, for this, if for no other reason, that a better educated community will require less Police and Jail expenditure, which between them cost more than a crore and-a-half, and will require possibly less famine relief. We are glad and thankful that Your Honour made a brave stand in the Imperial Council for Your Honour's own Province, for assistance in regard to Grain Compensation Allowance and for release of Public Works Cess for the benefit of the Province; or, in other words, for a more liberal Provincial Settlement that would not oblige us to go up to the Government of India at every turn, hat in hand, for special allotments. But so long as the special allotment system obtains and Provincial Governments have to resort to mendicancy, few claims can be higher or ought to be better recognized than those of Education and Sanitation.

"Between directing, inspecting and miscellaneous charges, whatever that may include, we have Rs. 8,25,000 out of the total of 50 lakhs. The Government Colleges, general and professional, that are not within the range of inspection cost 12 lakhs and-a-half. The Government Schools (general and special, whatever that distinction again may be) cost over 14 lakhs. Grants-in-aid to private schools amount to over 15½ lakhs, and

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

Scholarships come up to only Rs. 1,70,000. Last year there was an item of Rs. 1,41,000 under the heading of 'Re-organization of Salaries', but there is no charge under this important head this year; nor is there any provision for Primary Education and other educational schemes this year, as against a provision of Rs. 4,54,000 last year, which had not been expended we suppose.

"There may be some provisions, covering this ground, under the heading 'Special Government Schools' which, among other things, shelters remarkable charges like those of Reformatory Schools and increased dietary for Reformatory school students. The whole thing is so much mixed up that it is impossible to get a sufficient idea as to how much is for Education proper and how much is for absolutely extraneous purposes, which ought not to have been permitted to swell the Educational budget. For example, according to the General Review as well as the actual budget figures, we have a lump provision of Rs. 35,000 for Technical Education; whereas, in the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham's speech, we have it that Technical Education, in all its branches, accounts for an aggregate provision of more than six lakhs. The most curious and diligent will find a difficulty in making up the six lakhs from any of the figures in pages 20 and 21, even if the whole of the costs of the Civil Engineering College, amounting to Rs. 3,27,700, be taken into consideration.

"If there was any real object in making mere paper entries, the charges for Agricultural and Veterinary Colleges and similar other institutions, might well have been brought under Education, instead of Agriculture; and if Reformatory Schools are to come under Education, Jails and the Police, which are supposed in some quarters now-a-days, to have excellent educative effect, may as well do so and the array would be braver still. This cannot and ought not to be the idea and the object, for, from page 22 of the budget, we find that the charges for the Medical Schools and Colleges, amounting to Rs. 3,76,000, rightly come under the heading 'Medical' and not 'Educational'; and if there was to be a mixing up, I would much rather have the Medical Education charges included in Education proper than the Reformatory Schools charges, though there may be authority and precedent for this. What I have urged at some length ought to constitute a powerful plea for timely publication of details, for intelligent appreciation of the situation, and for determination, as to how much is for education proper and how much is for educational paraphernalia, of which we are apt to have more now-a-days than of the real article.

"An outstanding feature of the Educational figures is the preponderance of the directing and inspecting charges, though that which is to be directed and inspected has not proportionately expanded. According to the General Review, inspection charges amount to 6½ lakhs, and the charges for the legitimate subject-matter of inspection, the 'General' Government schools, amount to Rs. 0 lakhs and 17 thousand. The 'Special' schools, costing 7 lakhs, 15 thousand, cannot claim or need any very considerable share of this inspection, for we have Reformatory Schools and such like things included under the heading. The Private Schools, which cost 15 lakhs, 51 thousand, in grants-in-aid, also do not undergo very extensive inspection, though it is fairly exacting. These classes of institutions, which are the only institutions requiring or capable of inspection under present arrangements, come up to a total of less than 29 lakhs, and the inspection charges by themselves come up to 6½ lakhs, according to the General Review. If, however, the figures under the head 'Inspection', at page 20 of the budget be correct, the inspection charges are not 6¼ lakhs but 6 lakhs and 87 thousand. The discrepancy, though hardly requiring reconciling, is another plea for publication of details. Out of Rs. 2,31,000, representing the year's addition of non-recurring Educational charges, only Rs. 29,000 is for purposes other than inspection; and 2 lakhs and 2 thousand are for inspection proper. Inspection may be, and no doubt is, highly necessary for sound Education; but inspection-ridden education that is primarily starved can never prosper, and it is a moot question whether more money ought not to be spent on the articles to be inspected than on the inspecting machinery. And some of the schools, receiving quite vulgar fractions of the grant of 15 lakhs, would be decidedly the better for less exacting inspections and more liberal grants.

Inspection on inspection and inspection of inspection is apt to end in shrimps and water-weed floating in the improved milk-supply, as happened in the case of the fabled Royal consumer of old. The University proposes to have its own inspections to see that schools are conducted in accordance to its prevailing idea of things; and it would be a move in the right direction to help the University in getting its inspecting staff instead of augmenting the Government inspecting agency, whose very strength may prejudicially affect the University proposals. It is a matter for serious consideration, and I earnestly invite the attention of the Government to this phase of the Educational problem. Now that the University is in direct touch with the schools, University inspections would be much more needed and useful than Government Inspections; and here is a field of co-operation with the University, which Government should welcome and make full use of. It should spend more on Education itself than on Inspection of Education, which somehow or other seems to be the dominant idea according to recent notions.

"In connection with the recent augmentation of inspecting agencies, I desire to draw your Honour's attention to some Educational transfers. It struck me that there is now-a-days much freer interchange between the teaching and inspecting staffs than is likely to be beneficial to either branch of the service. It may be erroneous to speak of them as two branches of the service, under the exsisting order of things. But teaching is hardly likely to be of a superior order, so long as teachers and professors have to look to inspectors' posts for remuneration and recognition; and there is bound to be loss of administrative efficiency, if trained inspectors are likely to be drafted on to teaching work indiscriminately. A well-marked line of cleavage seemed to be apparent in recent times, and if that was judiciously maintained it would hardly be necessary to have two distinct branches of service. But, if for any object, interchange of officers, like what has been going on of late, be deemed necessary, the sooner the branches are separated and the teaching branch be made self-contained and permanently more attractive, the better for real Educational reform.

"We cannot gather from the budget before us as to what the exact and actual requirements of the Education Department for the year was; and all that we have is what the Financial Department, out of regard to its own resources, has been able or has thought fit to allow, possibly in consultation with the Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild who is directly in charge of the Department. We do not know how and on what principles and by whom the process of cutting and clipping has been conducted; and whether an arbitrary line has been drawn somewhere in the expert budget? I trust I shall be pardoned for giving expression to these misgivings, for such arbitrary lines are not entirely a myth. Instances are not wanting, though fortunately rare, in which experts in Science have made requisitions for scientific instruments, which a superior department or a superior officer in the same department has sanctioned up to a certain length down the list of requisitions, without thinking fit to have the requisition suitably revised and re-cast as a whole, by reason of the proposed retrenchment. Such interference is least tolerable in the Education Department; and if the Government is not able to sanction more than portions of the departmental requisition either the departmental requisitions should be carefully revised in the light of the possible sanction, or a lump sanction should be made and the department should be left to re-adjust its requirements. This may be anticipating Decentralization to a certain extent, but would undoubtedly contribute to good work and efficiency; and if the idea cannot be immediately or entirely worked out a certain amount of departmental elasticity ought to be permissible, so that the pressing wants, that the Financial Department may have failed to appreciate, may to some extent be attended to.

"The most noticeable omission in the Education budget of the year is, that of sufficient or any provision for extension of the Presidency College. After straining one's eyes all through the budget, one comes across an item of Rs. 20,000, at pages 3 and 13 of the General Review, for improvements in the

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

Presidency College, a non-recurring charge, which must be intended for purchase of instruments and implements and such like things; and neither for strengthening of the staff, nor for puchase of land or erection of buildings. At page 13, there is a lump provision of Rs. 25,000, for strengthening the staffs of Government Colleges, against the necessary minimum of ten times as much, in which the Presidency College may no doubt duly share. It is well-known that all our Government Colleges are undermanned, and if College authorities were invited or encouraged to complain or suggest we should have requisitions for two, if not three, Professors and Demonstrators, instead of a solitary one that has now to do all the work. And they should have to be Professors and Demostrators on higher pay, with better prospects and of quite a superior calibre. In this connection, Dr. Moris Travers' note on his inspection of the Presidency College affords grounds for serious reflection; and if the Presidency College is not as well-equipped and as well-manned, as it ought to be, the University will be powerless in regard to other colleges, with far lesser resources. The putting down of Rs. 20,000, for improvements or the possiblity of participation in the lump provision of Rs. 25,000 for strengthening of staffs, would be wholly inadequate; and the provision of Rs. 20,000, for improvements, brings one back to the question of removal or extension *in situ*. If the College is ever and at all to be removed, expenditure of Rs. 20,000, or any sum for improvement, would be wholly misspent. I should like, in passing, to make similar remarks in connection with the expenditure of Rs. 36,000 on the improvement of the Sibpur Laboratory, in view of its proposed removal to Ranchi. If, on the other hand, the Presidency College is not to be removed substantial outlay on the Laboratories and the Library will be needed, and, removal or no removal, the staff must be materially strengthened as soon as possible, for many important branches of study are and have to be neglected.

"And then comes the substantive question of Extension or Removal. The Government has definitely pronounced that there is to be no removal; but there will be improvement *in situ* as decided at the Belvedere Conference of the 3rd of July last. It is not correct to say that the conclusion come to at the Conference was that, subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State and to the existence of funds, land might be acquired in the vicinity of the present building for expansion. It was declared that the scheme had been definitely decided on and must be carried out gradually; that it was necessary at once to notify the land required for acquisition, and to provide funds for that in the first place. It was admitted and declared that the longer the matter was delayed the greater the prices would have to be paid for the land, and that it was essential, therefore, to take up the land without delay. It was observed, with great justice and propriety, that it would be harsh and impolitic to notify the land and not proceed with the acquisition, as fast as it was reasonably possible. It was stated that it would be well to acquire the land within 2 years, and funds ought to be provided for that purpose, which the Financial Department was asked to do in July last; so that land might be acquired within the last and present year, or rather the present and the next financial year. The acquisition notifications were ordered to be issued at once, and were as a matter of fact issued at once and are carrying important legal incidents, to which even the Government cannot shut its eyes. Steps were ordered to be taken at once with regard to acquisition, which meant something more, I suppose, than mere issue of notifications. Nothing was done last year. This year's budget is also a perfect blank, so far as this important question is concerned; and there is no explanation for the omission in the Financial Secretary's speech, or in his General Review or in the budget. We have of course Dr. Traver's powerful plea, renewed in his report for removal of the College. It is dated so late as the 24th of January, 1908, and the public could hardly be blamed if, reading Dr. Traver's report between the lines, it were uncharitable enough to construe the omission of this essential budget provision as an index of the disinclination of the Government to embarrass future and further consideration of the question, by including easily avoidable expenditure. Nothing could be more explicit and definite than the decision of the Belvedere Conference, or Your Honour's pronouncement after

the last year's Budget debate; and, if the sanction of the Secretary of State was needed, it is greatly to be regretted that it was not sought or obtained before the notifications were issued and people's ordinary and inalienable rights were interfered with to their serious detriment and prejudice. It is, in relation to projects above ten lacs, that the sanction of the Secretary of State is needed; and as the idea was to acquire the land in two years, the estimate might have been spread over two years and the delay, due to the formality of obtaining the sanction of the Secretary of State, might and may yet be avoided. If Provincial Revenues are inadequate, the Imperial Government, which can afford a gift of 12 lakhs of rupees for Police re-organization, might easily afford a similar or even lesser gift in aid of Education; and we would strongly and earnestly beseech Your Honour to impress the urgent nature of the need upon the Government of India, so that work may be partially begun next year and completed the year after. Till the Presidency College is placed on a proper basis, the educational standard of the country will not be adjusted and this delay will throw back all real reform for a number of years. The matter is thus not of the every-day type, but is one of truly vital importance to the educational future of the country. We do hope and trust that, before the time comes for Your Honour to lay down the reins of your exalted office, it will be possible for Your Honour to mark its close with this great educational work, greater in value in our eyes because out of deference to public opinion; and at variance with Your Honour's cherished ideas and wishes in the matter, Your Honour has been graciously and generously pleased to consent to the retention and improvement of the Presidency College, where in the midst of many memories it stands and has stood. We have great confidence, Sir, in your suasive powers, and we feel sure that if matters are put before the Government of India, with proper vigour and emphasis, the prevailing wail due to this serious omission will yet be turned into a joyous paean of praise.

"There has no doubt been a clear increase of eleven lacs and-a-half of rupees in three years of Your Honour's *regime*, for which we have every reason to be grateful; for it betokens a sincere and sustained desire to give its due share of importance to this most important question. Considering how the Provincial revenues are dealt with by the Government of India under the Settlement system, it would be difficult to say that Your Honour's Government is not doing nearly all that can be done; but our and Your Honour's Government's plea must persistently be for more generous treatment of the educational situation, the verities of which have been abundantly realized, recognized and admitted by the Government of India in more than one place and on more than one occasion. And how such pleas can operate, when strongly and earnestly put forth, must be shown by the success or otherwise of Your Honour's appeal in aid of the Presidency College extension scheme, which I invite and beg of Your Honour to make. In the Viceroy and in the Finance Member of the Government of India, we have friends of Education who are able and willing to see things in their proper perspective; and if the other Provinces have claims, that ought to be recognized, we certainly do not propose to press and push ours to their exclusion. For, Sir, with regard to Education more than with regard to other things, we must realize that 'India forms one great Empire; that the Provinces are largely connected in interest, and that in this great body if one member suffers the other members suffer with it.' A badly-educated India is bad for the rulers as it is certainly bad for the ruled; and a better educated, strong, loyal and resourceful India will require far less policing and far less internal militarism, than the Government thinks is good for it at the present day. He will be a friend of Bengal, among our pro-consuls, who is able to impress this view of things on the responsible Advisers of the Imperial Government; and we shall rejoice to feel and to be able to say that Your Honour has laid the foundation of a lasting superstructure of national gratitude. We propose to give ourselves and Your Honour no rest, till, between Provincial and Imperial resources, a substantial beginning of the Presidency College scheme has been made; and if Your Honour takes up the matter in right earnest, as I have no doubt Your Honour will, we ought to get the first instalment of beneficence earlier than we think.

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

"As I have stated above, the objecting Members of Your Honour's Council are frequently met by one stereotyped reply: 'The Government is pledged or committed to this scheme and it must be provided for.' To no scheme could Your Honour's Government have been more definitely and inviolably pledged and committed than the Presidency College scheme, and it is a matter of regret and wonder that the Financial Department took no steps to have the pledge redeemed. We, therefore, appeal to Your Honour and ask Your Honour to go up to the Government of India to have the engagement kept inviolate, and I appeal with confidence and hope.

"There are other important Building projects, in connection with advancement of learning, to which I should very much like to draw the attention of the Government and the Council, but to do which I find little encouragement indeed, considering how the Presidency College extensions are faring. All the same, I feel it my duty to refer to a highly-important scheme, the extension of the Senate House buildings, which must be undertaken in the immediate future. The munificent gift of His Highness the Maharaja of Durbhanga, which all true lovers of Education trust is but the earnest and fore-runner of a freer flow from the purse of our wealthy magnates, will make the building of a long-needed University Library soon possible. But we are in the position of people who have funds to build, but no suitable land to build on. There is no doubt, at the back of the Senate House, land long acquired for the purpose of a library; among other things, acquired at a time when no one thought that it would be possible to have a fine Library building, such as 2½ lacs of rupees ought to be able to procure. A building, such as we could then afford, had best perhaps be away in the back ground. But if I could make all feel like I feel in the matter, I would have the Ramessar Library, right on the road frontage, with its lofty and attractive facing, an instructive object-lesson to our philanthropically-inclined millionaires. Working upon ideas such as these, I pressed that the market to the south of the Senate House should be acquired and the Ramessar Library should be located on the corner plot; the back land away from the tram-line being reserved for the press, the laboratories and other buildings. There can be no doubt that the market will, sooner or later, have to be acquired, and it would be a grave economical blunder to delay the acquisition longer than can be helped. The Vice-Chancellor had long suggested and insisted on this acquisition; and that it has been so long deferred, through want of funds, is distinctly unfortunate. And it is now doubly unfortunate that we do not know where fittingly to place the Ramessar Library, for the University has still no funds. I invite Your Honour to come to its aid. We may probably be told that all such grants have hitherto been made from the Imperial Funds, and that is the greater reason for the Provincial Government also doing some of its duty to the University in this direction. That the need is pressing is beyond all questions, for we shall have to pay a good deal more later on for what may cost us less now; and if the Provincial Government gives us some slight assistance, its good example may not improbably be imitated by the Eastern Bengal Government, and we may also fittingly press the Government of India for its contribution of aid in such shape as may be fitting; the University may thus be assisted to get that which it would be next to impossible for it to achieve unaided, at least within a reasonable time. I would, therefore, beg of Your Honour's Government to be pleased to provide a substantial portion of the costs of these highly important and beneficial public works.

"There are some other necessary and urgent building works, in connection with the Educational work of Bengal, to which I feel it my duty to draw Your Honour's attention before passing on to other matters. Large works have recently been undertaken in connection with the Medical College and the Medical College Hospitals; but, having regard to growing requirements, they are nothing like enough. One of the principal works in progress is the Surgical block of the Medical College, for which there is a budget allotment of two lacs and thirty thousand rupees; and this year the fourth block of the Medical College has been provided for at an expense of 90,000 rupees. But the College is badly in need of properly-equipped Biological and Physical Laboratories,

and also a hostel for non-military students. The last two are urgently needed for compliance with the University regulations, which had for the time being to be relaxed to a certain extent, and no time should be lost in providing Government institutions with what is being insisted on in the case of private institutions. Much stress has recently been laid on proper hostel accommodation, as a necessary educational machinery; and such a machinery would be most needed in the case of medical students who, if they are not living with their own people, are best nearest their hospitals, and whose hours make it impossible for hostel or mess authorities, at a distance and unconnected with the College, to exercise proper check and control. The Hooghly College also is sadly in need of proper hostel buildings as well as of separate school buildings, which are insisted on by the University regulations; and I desire to impress upon the Government the necessity of early supply of these bare necessities. There is another much-needed hostel which has been practically promised for a long time, and that is in connection with the Darjeeling School. I was glad to see it announced in the newspapers that the Bengal Education Department will shortly purchase, at a cost of Rupees 20,000, a plot of land for the construction of a Hostel and for a play ground near the school; but I see no budget provision for it. If the newspaper announcement is not a mistake, then the mistake in the budget should be corrected; and if it is a mistake, then also will the budget require correction, in regard to this long and much-felt want, at a place where Your Honour's Government is located for a considerable part of the year and where many Government servants are obliged to keep their children for education.

"The Government of India, to which we owe the present Educational policy for good and evil, owe heavy duties and responsibilities which it has not adequately recognized and is not realizing. To make an admittedly unpopular University Act as popular and acceptable as possible, it began with an inconsiderable grant of eighty thousand rupees towards the bettering of non-Government Colleges in Western Bengal, and another inconsiderable sum in Eastern Bengal which could but go a very small way towards real reform. The Chancellor's recent announcement, about endowment of a Chair in Economic Science, which I trust will be fittingly called the Minto Chair, is an important step towards realization of the duties of the Government of India in the matter, so far as relates to the University proper. The Government Colleges, which are important adjuncts of the University system, require a great deal of strengthening and supplementing. In the words of Your Honour's recent Resolution, the question as to how far the reforms introduced by the new University Act and the new University Regulations are to be real, is very largely one of funds? Heavy expenditure is needed in many directions for the proper development of the Colleges, according to the new ideals; and the means by which this expenditure is to be met not only in Government Colleges but in deserving Private Colleges, without resources of their own, is a problem of the utmost gravity. As Mr. Earle has justly remarked in his admirable Educational Report, it is now, as it always has been and will be, for the Government Colleges to take the lead in shaping a better model for general Education; but the Provincial Funds available are insufficient to do more than ensure a bare compliance with the regulations. We must, therefore, look to the Government of India for substantial help. Much remains to be done to put the staff and appliances, even in the foremost of the Government Colleges, on a proper footing; and whenever any important schemes of reform are put forward, the Government is met with the problem of making two rupees do the work of four or perhaps more. There is one unbroken and agonizing cry for more men, better men, better paid men and better classes of men; and the Government is obliged to say, in a sober and considered document, that it is beyond the power of the Government to meet all or nearly all the demands made upon it and the one hope of real progress seems to lie in the liberality of private persons.

"'The demand made upon the Government', which in the words of the Resolution, the Government is unable to meet, is, we take it, in respect of its own institutions and institutions that it aids. And the Director, in his Report,

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

more than once calls attention to the large share of Educational expenditure in England, which is met from endowments and private contributions. English analogies are not to be applied in this country to Educational matters, was the criticism, last year in this Council, in reply to the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu, whose uncomfortably ample and heavy mantles have fallen on weak and unworthy shoulders. And may not his successor ask, in all humility, as to why analogies like this should be forthcoming with regard to the particular matter of Private Endowments alone? Where are the endowments to come from, for which the Government is placidly waiting for realization of Educational ideals of its own creation or framing, in its own colleges and institutions? What we are pleading for strenuously in this Council is for bettering of Government models at Government expense, and we are told that real reform is impossible, except with the aid of private liberality. The standing complaint is that the Government does too little for the people in the matter, taking its own institutions and aided institutions together; and the reply practically amounts to this, that the people must not only do nearly all in regard to their own institutions, but must help Government institutions as well. Referring to the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu's statistics last year, showing how small a sum is spent on Education in India compared to European countries, the Hon'ble Mr. Gait said that it is obvious that expenditure must depend on the income available; and that it was quite clear that the Government of India cannot rival Switzerland in spending more than Rs. 9 per head of the population on Education, when its total revenue from all sources is not much more than Rs. 4 per head. But it strikes us that Switzerland does a really heroic thing in spending more than Rs. 9 on Education, out of an income of not more than 1£ to 5s. per head, which according to popular ideas would be something like Rs. 13 and according to the current rate of Exchange would be Rs. 19 per head. Our Government spends the magnificent sum of one anna and three pies per head, not out of ten pies of revenue per head, but out of more than Rs. 4 per head. Since the Hon'ble Mr. Gait thought it worth while to controvert the position of my predecessor in office, it would be as well to examine the matter with some little care. The hon'ble gentleman apparently overlooked that the public revenue of the Republic, which is happily safe from all Kaiser-Tweedmouth controversy, had an income in 1903 (from which year's figures the percentage was taken) of no more than £4,257,200 from a population of 331,300, which gives a revenue of something like £1-5s. or about Rs. 19 per head, out of which Rs. 9-11-2 (Rs. 3,20,200) was spent on Education. Or, in other words, the Government of Switzerland spends nearly half of what it gets, against a pice and a quarter out of the rupee that our Government gets. But then the Executive power of the Republic is in the hands of the National Assembly, the President of which has a salary of £ 720, the Vice-President and other members of the Council being paid £ 480 a year, and all other expenses being naturally proportionate. Of course Switzerland is without a standing Army, a reform that the Zakka Khels would welcome in this country with great relish and gusto, and even the Militia, which effectively takes the place of the standing Army, have to provide their own badges and uniforms. These are not reforms immediately within the range of practical politics in this country, and since even our Assistant Magistrates will not look with complaisance at the Swiss President's pay, we shall not expect our Government to spend half its revenue on our Education. But would a paltry four anna bit per head, out of more than four rupees that we bring to the Imperial Coffers every year, though starved and famished, be too exacting a standard for our Educational demands? Is it a demand, we ask, that, in the terms of the Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild's recent Resolution, is beyond the power of the Government to meet? If it is all to be a question of figures, statistics and proportions, you have to look at the question as an entire whole; and we have a right to complain and do complain that just a little more than one-sixty-fourth, just a little more than a pice in the rupee, that you take out of us in the shape of revenue, though most of us can never afford even a meal a day, should be spent upon that which is a certain insurance against lawlessness, to put it on no higher grounds.

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

"And what princely and munificent endowments do you expect from a people out of whom the Government with its powerful, resourceful and watchful tax-taking machinery, of grotesquely manifold order, cannot take out more than Rs. 4 per head, in the shape of Provincial and Imperial taxes and revenues? By way of indicating as to what the people are doing, I would briefly refer to events like these. Ours are a people with perennial Famine-conditions, prevailing from year's end to year's end. Ours is a community loaded with lower middle classes, whose conditions are much more pitiable than those of the labouring and agricultural classes, as Your Honour, with great effect and pathos, stated the other day at the Town Hall Famine Relief meeting. It is these very classes, whom the present abnormally high prices so severely affect; from which our students and teachers mostly come, and see how manfully, in spite of their known and admitted troubles, they are trying to do their duty in the matter of Education. And it is chiefly from these classes, in other countries, that the munificent Educational and other endowments come. What wonder then that Educational endowments, in this country, are few and far between? I shall not, for my present purposes, refer to gifts of gentlemen and noblemen like the Maharaja of Durbhanga, the late Babu Prasanna Kumar Tagore, the late Maharaja Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore, the late Mr. Prem Chand Roy Chand, the late Babu Guru Prasanna Ghose and the many minor donors, who have contributed to the twenty-six lacs of rupees worth of endowments in the University of Calcutta, to which the Vice-Chancellor of the University referred the other day in his Convocation address. These are endowments that might and ought to be manifolded if all who, in similar spheres of life, have the capacity, as also the inclination to imitate the noble-minded donors whom I have named. Nor shall I, by way of justification or vindication of our people's position in regard to this matter, refer to events like the foundation of institutions like the Hindu School, the Hare School and the Bethune School, by private enterprise; nor to the foundation of institutions, in recent times, like the Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, the Association for assisting our young men to proceed to Foreign Countries to study Industries, the National Council of Education and the Bengal Technical Institute and other Institutions, in connection with which a great deal of energy and money is being spent in a quiet and workmanlike way: all tending to the educational and economic salvation of the country. I would rather confine myself for the present to what the people themselves are doing in a still more unostentatious way every day of their life, and the evidence of which is to be found in the Government Reports and the Government Resolution, though to a very limited extent.

"In Your Honour's Resolutions on the Quinquennial Educational Report, it is observed that the expenditure during 1906-07, on Secondary Education, was Rs. 25,43,105, of which Rs. 5,58,303 was from the public funds. The total expenditure on Primary Education, during the same year, was Rs. 25,50,768, of which the public funds contributed Rs. 8,94,749 or 35·1 *per cent.* The total expenditure on the education of girls and women was Rs. 5,46,803, of which the public funds contributed Rs. 2,80,631. In regard to European schools the public funds contributed Rs. 1,55,790 out of Rs. 11,67,077 in 1901-02. We have no information in the Resolution and Report regarding Arts and Technical schools all over the country, that are entirely supported by private funds; these institutions do not submit any return to the Government, being in no way subject to Government control or inspection. For similar reasons, no information is available in regard to our great private and Missionary Colleges and Muhammadan schools and Maktabs and Madrasas, Sanskrit toles, various Homeopathic and Ayurvedic and Yunani schools, and last and not the least to our Allopathic Colleges, some of which will soon fittingly claim affiliation, which do not exist or work for pecuniary gain, but generally at a loss to the promoters; and are carrying on the educational work of the country under the heaviest conceivable handicap, against which some measure of Government relief is now being gradually vouchsafed.

"In passing, I may be permitted to draw Your Honour's attention to the excellent work that is being steadily done at these medical schools and colleges,

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarkadhikari.*]

and the hospitals attached or affiliated to them, by private exertions and out of contributions that Your Honour's Government rarely hears anything about. A body of non-official workers is being trained up, some of whom are in their own respective spheres able to hold their own against all comers. While non-officials are being freely associated in other important public work, people are naturally asking themselves, and would like to ask the Government, as to whether the talents and devotion of non-service medical men could not be some way utilized and their work recognized and encouraged, under a well-thought-out scheme, in which service interests would of course in the first intance be safeguarded? An attempt like this has recently been made in Bombay, and if it has not quite succeeded, it is because of mistakes that would have to be carefully avoided elsewhere. It would be a welcome, wholesome and necessary departure, the author of which would be long and lovingly remembered by all interested in problems of Sanitation and Medical Education. Our Law Education is mostly in private hands, and the most that Government attempts is the keeping up of the profitable and obsolete Pleadership Examination. This is another field of Education in which a re-arrangement of ideas will soon be necessary, though in a somewhat different direction.

"Though private liberality in these domains may not be very large or very much in evidence, it would hardly be correct to say that a proverbially poor people are not doing what they can, by way of supplementing Government endeavours. I say all this not by way of apology, but for emphasizing the need of more liberal treatment of the situation by the Government, Provincial as well as Imperial. The paramount need for greater expenditure is admitted and means must be found, if it is not to be said that the Government has upset our notions of things and has set up ideals, in realizing which it will not help us to its utmost, no, not even in its own schools and Colleges; better far that there was no new University Act and that we were allowed to go our own way in modest humility and work out our educational salvation as best as we could, and in as long a span of time as possible. We never understood why otherwise, for teaching and learning of science, elaborate and costly appliances, which we could not afford, should have been insisted on: and why on failure to provide them at a price, perfectly beyond our means, all science teaching was to stop? The opening lecture of Dr. Schuster showed up the weakness of a position like this with unmistakable clearness, and the learned Professor made some of us flinch and wince that we have been party to the insistance that true science needs forbidding and prohibitive paraphernalia; and he has re convinced us of what we had long been convinced that it is the men and not upon costly apparatus in handsome, lofty and well-equipped and expensive laboratories, with hot and cold water and other comforts and conveniences laid on in abundance, regardless of costs and resources, upon which proper science studies will be possible. And we must see that teaching and research work go on side by side, except in exceptional cases, and that the one does not militate with the other. There has been painfully abundant evidence of late that the people will never be able to afford all this out of their own resources, and a helpless Government now appeals to private liberality. The old world ideal is shattered, and in the words of the Vice-Chancellor, in the Convocation address, as well as of Your Honour's Resolution to which I have previously referred, the available funds are insufficient to do more than ensure bare attainment of the new ideal. Even the Government Colleges have to be starved in regard to the full curriculum, and subjects after subjects have to be given up in Colleges where they were favourites before; and if this is the state of things in the Government Colleges, what is likely to be in private and Missionary institutions? It is a problem, not only of an utmost gravity, in the words of Your Honour's Resolution, but of the gravest anxiety. Who is to solve it, and when and how? I am very much afraid it is the Government and the Government alone, and not the people; for a good long time yet to come, that can afford the solution. If the Government is unable or unwilling to extend a helping hand, there is bound to be a re-arrangement of ideas, and most of the Education of the country will pass

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

away out of Government and of University control. It is clear that so long as the present system of settlement attains, the Provincial Government is powerless to do all that is required, and the Imperial Government, the rich legacy of whose advanced Educational policy the country is now called upon to enjoy, for good or evil or both, must come to our aid; and we look to Your Honour with confidence and hope for a proper presentment of the case to the Government of India on our behalf, and the first instalment of such assistance will have to be in connection with the Presidency College. The country will await the issue with anxiety.

"The proposal for the removal of the Sibpur Engineering College to Ranchi raises an important question, which I referred to in Your Honour's Council at the last meeting, and as the reply was slightly encouraging I would beg of Your Honour to consider, before finally deciding, as to whether the Technical Department proper had not best be retained near the important centre of trade, commerce and industry, where practical work of all descriptions would be within easy reach? I would beg leave further to raise the question in connection with the budget also, as to whether the whole of our Technological Education should not be administered by experts, better able to handle it than lay educationalists, in the same way as medical and agricultural education is administered? Our people have, after a prolonged lapse, recognized the urgency of Technical Education, and in the various private institutions that I have named a good beginning has been made. Your Honour and Your Honour's responsible officers have on our invitation seen some of this work, and enough indication is forthcoming of the earnestness of the desire to profit by such education. Here is an untrodden field of self-help which is likely to be fully utilized, and the Government has not been troubled for direct aid. But there is an important direction in which Government aid is possible and desirable, and that is by superior training, to turn out from the Government Technological Departments properly qualified and trained teachers, who could make the people's work easier. We have tried teachers from Europe and America; we have tried teachers from Japan and from various centres of Indian industry, and somehow or other the result has not been satisfactory. Capable, devoted and willing teachers are as badly needed in the technological side of education as in other sides, and the Government will be doing an important duty, in its own well-equipped model Colleges, if it succeeds in training and turning out capable workers and thorough teachers, whose field of usefulness is very large, in fact practically unlimited. They will find employment in public as well as private schools and workshops, and will themselves prove to be the nuclei of economic and industrial developments of no mean magnitude. Bengal is essentially an agricultural country, and the result is that with the slighest depression of agriculture, which is unfortunately the normal condition of things now-a-days, and the suffering not only of the agriculturists but of the untold thousands who depend upon agriculturists, mostly as idle hangers-on, is acute beyond conception. As a distinguished and high-placed expert officer of the Government has been good enough to suggest to me, the remedy is in starting small industrial centres in agricultural areas, by way of supplementing local resources. By spasmodic and adventitious aids, such as have been asked for in the Council today, shall we preserve and better our industries; but we must set to business in an organized manner.

"The idea is well-worth taking up and considering, and I crave Your Honour's indulgence for one brief moment while I refer to it. If Government or private enterprise is unequal to the task, Municipalities, District Boards and Village Unions may, under proper direction and supervision and with some slight aid, do useful work in this connection. The general idea is to have suitable workshops in important and selected centres; where cultivators' relatives and all who care may be taught practical work of weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, makers of agricultural implements, carving, rattan work, dyeing, moulding of bricks and tiles and various other small arts and useful industries on a small scale that one might think of and name. With the recent disruption of the caste and guild systems, there has been

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

a good deal of economical and industrial disturbance, and things have to be re-arranged in this, as in many other spheres of life. I have seen important centres where it is difficult to get a good blacksmith or a good carpenter, or even the average brick-moulder. If local industrial facilities like this could be provided, there would be communal as well as individual good, and an agriculturist would not have to travel miles to a distant village or town to get everyday implements mended or made? nor would brick-moulders have to be imported by the gang per season, from distant parts, at a prohibitive cost. The thing could be worked out at a comparatively small cost, according to a properly thought-out scheme, and a large number of village idlers who go only to swell the criminal classes could find profitable work, and agricultural congestion would to a certain extent be relieved. These workshops need not be self-contained in all centres and ought not to be costly and pretentious. Boards of local members may be constituted for directing the management, organizing prizes for good work and for profitable sale of the outturn. It is by workmanlike handling of the subject, and not by inclusion of fancy subjects in the primary and upper primary courses of our schools, that real economic good can be expected. From a small nucleus like this, will there be evolved the opportunity of developing the most important work by degrees and small industries, and individual development will still be an economic salvation under suitable conditions. This has been recognized in the peoples' institutions, where small and profitable industries are being given due prominence; and the Government will have to supplement our endeavours in this direction, while not unmindful of the larger works on which it is already or is about to be engaged. The difficulty is to create these nuclei, and he will be a good friend of the country and the Government, who will organize and work a network of these small workshops and industrial centres, side by side with our model agricultural farms and educational institutions, and his name will be handed down to grateful generations. As has often and truly been remarked, the country is not yet suited for the development of large and organized industries, and individual efforts must, for a long while yet, be fostered and taken care of.

"And, side by side would, and may, there be the promotion of Primary Education, for which the Government is prepared to do so much. Every *régime* has its fads and fetishes that the next generation has the satisfaction of seeing exploded, and one has only to study between the lines of Your Honour's recent Educational Resolution to see how some of these exploded schemes are faring. We are told that the proportion of pupils, in upper primary schools, has shown no advance during the last 15 years. We are officially and authoritatively told that this, coupled with the unpopularity of middle vernacular schools, points to the conclusion that vernacular teaching, beyond the elementary stage, does not under present conditions commend itself to parents, as being of practical value. 'Craik's pursuit of knowledge under difficulties' will, therefore, yet need revising and re-editing, and the teaching of English must not be attempted to be thrown back. Further down, in the same Resolution, we see that the system introduced by the Resolution of 1901 has proved a failure, as regards both intellectual training of the children and the proper teaching of the vernacular. A revised syllabus for the infant section and for Standards I and II has been published, which will be introduced for 1910. It is said to be clear, from this syllabus, that it is educationally sound; but to my mind its failure is also foredoomed, for reasons that I shall try to explain later on as they strike me. We are next told that the Commercial classes of the Presidency College have failed to be popular, and the reason to my mind is, that they sought to turn out mere assistants and clerks (which are best trained in the lowest office rungs) and did not aim at giving real commercial education of a superior and attractive type. The failure is somewhat of the nature of the failure of the Fort William College and the earlier Government educational enterprises, which similarly aimed at the out-turn of good clerks, writers and assistants, and did not care to make real education its goal. The list of educational failures is by no means yet exhausted. We have it in the words of the Resolution that the work done in agricultural classes, attached to

high schools, has not at all been satisfactory. In fact, says the Resolution, the footing on which they were started was not such as to render success possible. Steps are now being taken, we are told, to place these classes on a *business footing*, and one must be pardoned for wondering as to why business footing was the last and the latest thing to be thought of, and not the first and foremost? In order for them to be successful, these classes must not be considered as a part, but must be no more than mere auxiliaries of high schools, somewhat on the lines that I have been trying to indicate. We have it again that the B classes, attached to zilla schools, have proved a failure. Attempts are being made to foster the developments of these classes, and the Director remarks that their ultimate success must depend upon the extent to which the classes of Indian society, who use secondary schools, are prepared to encourage their sons to take up work, other than Government service or clerical employment. This connotes a misconception of the objects of the high schools as well as of these classes against which we protested from the beginning, and which accounts for the present failure. Those who will want good workmen or good foremen, carry on their work, we take it, on *a business footing*; and they will not care for amateurs from High School Agricultural classes or zilla school B classes, where the teaching of the special subjects for obvious reasons cannot be adequate. So far as manual training is necessary as a part of general training, as recognized on all hands, have it by all means in our schools, but not as a likely reproductive factor. That must be on an entirely and essentially business footing; and to control and regulate Industrial education like this, as well as the higher Engineering and Technological education, we badly want a well-equipped, separate and special Educational Department, which will not make the many mistakes that Mr. Earle's conscientious and thorough work has discovered. My plea for such a department is thus strengthened, and we are glad to note in the terms of Your Honour's memorable Resolution that old errors have been realized: 'and we do hope and trust that really sounder ideals will now be put forward.'

"Let me here explain why I have misgivings as to the ultimate success of the revised Syllabus, which is claimed to be educationally sounder than its predecessors and which is to be introduced from 1910. This is neither the time nor the place to go into details of so important and technical a question like this, and I shall have barely time to examine only one of its most important phases.

"It appears from the Resolution of the Bengal Government (in the General Department) No. 1028T.-G., dated 10th June, 1907 (*vide* Calcutta Gazette of 19th June, 1907), that the Government will prepare model text-books for the Lower Primary Scholarship Examination, in accordance with a revised Syllabus appended to that Resolution, and that these books will replace, from 1910, all the Lower Primary text-books now in use. It has no doubt been provided that if the public can prepare equally good or better books, these will also be accepted. What the inevitable effect of such a provision may be, I need not attempt to forecast. But it appears to me undesirable and unnecessary that the Government should enter into competition with the public, and there can be no doubt that the interest of students, as well as of education in general, would be best served by leaving the preparation of text-books to open competition. At a time when literature has made admitted advance in Bengal, the necessity for fostering School-Book Societies does not exist, and the recent strong protest of our publishers, regarding matters of this description, must still be fresh in public memory. Preparation of model text-books by the Government might be considered necessary only on one or other of the two suppositions,—first, that there are good reasons for apprehending that the public will fail to prepare suitable text-books; and, second, that the Government can secure the services of such experts of exceptional ability as may not care to prepare text-books themselves. None of these suppositions are warranted by the existing state of things, and books made to order are generally unsatisfactory.

"As a justification for the first supposition, it may possibly be urged that though the preparation of Lower Primary Science Primers now in use had been left to open competition, no good books are yet available. But, if good

[Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.]

Science Primers have not been available, may it not be that the fault lies more with the syllabus itself than with the authors? Is not a Lower Primary Science Primer a strange medley of more than half a dozen of scientific subjects (Botany, Zoology, Physics, Chemistry, Agriculture, Hygiene, Domestic Economy, etc.), and no single author could be expected to do justice to all these subjects, within the small compass necessarily allowed? The Syllabus has now been revised, and the Lower Primary Science Primers will be replaced and better books may be reasonably expected. There are no good grounds to suppose that our authors, some of whom are well-advanced, will prove incompetent to prepare good literature books for the Lower Primary examination, even if we concede that they could not prepare good Science Primers of the above-mentioned type.

"As to the second supposition, which might justify preparation of model text-books by the Government, it may gravely be doubted if the abilities of the experts, whose services the Government may secure, will be superior to those of the experienced authors whose books are now in use; for, it is obvious that, the most competent persons will as a rule prefer to write books on their own behalf, since the remuneration for doing the same work for the Government must and ought to be far less attractive. It would be interesting to know the names of a few experts, whose services the Government may expect to secure, and compare them with those whose books are or are likely to be available in the market. If it be urged that the preparation of each book will be entrusted by the Government to a committee, consisting of three or four persons, and that a book prepared by a number of persons in consultation with one another will be superior to a book written by an individual author, it may be pointed out in reply that the advantage, even if real, can but be very small; and that far better books are bound to be produced by open competition, especially as one of the rules of the Text-Books Committee makes it obligatory upon authors to revise their books at intervals.

"Under these circumstances, I would ask the Government, which has much more serious and pressing work in hand, to modify their decision, with regard to the preparation of model text-books, particularly in the case of Arithmetic and subjects like Literature, Geography, History and Grammar, in which excellent books already exist. And in regard to subjects in which there are no books yet up to the mark, model text-books should be withdrawn from circulation as soon as equally good and better books are available; for they will then have served their purpose, and the Government can have no intention of undertaking reproductive public works in the book-making line. It appears from paragraph 9 of the Resolution referred to already, that the first list of approved books, written according to the new system, will be issued in July, 1909, and that private authors will be given one year's time to prepare their books (from June, 1908, to June, 1909). Under this arrangement, it will be almost impossible for a private author to get his book approved in July, 1909; for he will have to prepare the book and get it printed, and then the book will have to pass through (1) a confidential preliminary examination, and (2) a formal examination by the Text-Book Committee. All this will require considerable time. The result will be that the Government text books will have a monopoly for the Lower Primary examination, 1911, though, probably, it is not the intention of the Government to create a monopoly on its own behalf, even for a single year. So, if the Government must prepare model text-books, it is desirable that their introduction into schools may be postponed at least by another year; and that it should be officially notified that the examination of all books, submitted by private authors on or before a certain date to be fixed by the Government, shall be finished by the Text-Book Committee, in time for the first approved list published under the new system. By precautionary measures like these, the Government will minimise the chances of failure of the description, regarding which I have taken the liberty to warn the Government not without hesitation and anxiety.

"My remarks on Educational topics have already been so lengthy, that I cannot take up many other phases of this and other questions that are of pressing interest. But I cannot close this subject, without referring to the

all-important question of the status and pay of our Professors and Teachers. In the existing state of the public and private purses, we cannot expect the country to be strewn with Eton and Harrow teachers, or Cambridge and Oxford professors; for we have neither rich endowments nor the capacity to pay large fees, which make such a state of things possible. It is, however, clear and admitted that the existing state of things will not do and must at once be changed for the better. Your Honour's Government has earned our abiding thanks by realizing this; and, in these sentiments of gratitude, we have the supreme pleasure of associating the name of Mr. Earle, whose earnest and single-minded endeavour during the period of his office, has been to better the position of our teachers and professors. And fortunately for them and us and for our after-comers, the Government of India has also realized the state of things and decided, we hope, to come to the rescue of the Local Government. We sincerely trust their aid will be more solid than in the shape of mere advisory and sympathetic resolutions, and that the resources of the Local Government will be substantially supplemented. The question has often been referred to in Your Honour's Council; and now that it is engaging the earnest and careful attention of Your Honour's Government as well as of the Imperial Government, it may not be amiss to shortly review the situation and indicate the points on which immediate reform is necessary, and would be possible without prohibitive costs.

"The scheme for re-organization of the Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services of Bengal was introduced with effect, as I understand, from September, 1905. The Bengal Government deserves our thanks for attempting improvement; but the scheme has not appreciably benefited our Educational Officers, and has therefore failed to remove the prevailing discontent. One of the causes of this discontent is extremely slow promotion; and as this is a matter of some importance I beg leave to examine it in detail, though this has on former occasions been referred to in the Council and elsewhere, though not with more effect than I expect from my remarks.

"Promotion is slow for two reasons—*First*, the number of posts in the three lowest classes is very large; and the number in the higher classes is comparatively small. The inevitable result is that, even under the most favourable circumstances, nearly three-fourths of one's period of service must be spent in getting through the three lowest classes. A glance at the following figures, showing side by side the number of posts in each class of the Provincial Educational Service, and the number of posts in the corresponding class of the Provincial Executive Service, will satisfy the Government that promotion in the former service must be extremely slow.

Class	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Provincial Executive Service ...	6	8	18	57	84	87	50	43
Provincial Educational Service ..	4	6	7	11	13	18	26	39

"If the number of posts, in different classes of the Provincial Educational Service, was adjusted in the same relative proportions as in the case of the Provincial Executive Service, the figures would have been as follows:—

Class	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Number of appointments ...	2	3	6	20	30	30	17	15

"If these figures, especially those for Classes V, VI, VII and VIII be compared with the actual figures for the corresponding classes, the most important cause of slow promotion will be obvious.

"The second cause of slow promotion is, the practice obtaining in the Education Department of appointing officers direct to some of the higher classes of the Provincial Service. Since the constitution of the Provincial Educational Service in 1896, more than twenty officers were appointed direct to Classes VI and VII, and even to class IV. In consequence, most, of the posts in the highest classes are now held by officers, who will retire later than most of the members of the intermediate classes. This practice of making appointments direct to the higher classes of a graded service has, I believe, no parallel in any other service; and it serves to bring about a very undesirable and abnormal state of things in the Provincial Educational Service. In all other graded services,

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

members of the highest class retire in due order and their places are gradually taken by members of the next class, so that there is a steady flow of promotion, and every officer may expect in due course to get to class I. In the Provincial Educational Service, a smaller number of officers, belonging to the highest classes, is benefited in consequence of this practice, at the expense of the rest of the officers in the lower classes, who form the majority. I do not wish to suggest that officers, who were appointed direct to the higher classes, are getting more than what they deserve, or even all that they deserve. Some of them, in fact, are graduates of European Universities, who fully deserve to be appointed to the Indian Educational Service. The point that I wish to make is, that their inclusion in the Provincial Service list has seriously blocked the promotion of other members, who form the majority.

II.—Promotion in the Provincial Educational Service as compared with that in the Executive branch of the Provincial Civil Service.

"A Deputy Magistrate gets Rs. 400 in 10 to 11 years, while a great many of the officers now in classes IV, V, VI and VII of the Provincial Educational Service will have to retire on Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. Accuracy of this statement can be verified on reference to the Civil List and the History of Services of Gazetted Officers.

III.—Illustrations of slow promotions in the past.

"(*a*) On reference to the History of Services of Gazetted Officers, it will be seen that many deserving members of the Provincial Educational Service retired on Rs. 250 or Rs. 300.

"(*b*) The number of posts in the lowest class is so large that a good many years must elapse before an officer can get through it. One of our best Professors took more than eight years in getting through the lowest class. Another well-known and successful Professor is getting only Rs. 200, in spite of the recent re-organization, after ten years of service. A third, who is on extension now, is getting Rs. 300 per month.

IV.—Comparison of the average monthly income of Provincial Educational Officers in different Provinces.

"The figures in the second and third columns of the following tabular statement showing the strength and cost *per mensem* of the Provincial Educational Services in the different provinces are taken from the Resolutions of the Government of India on the Quinquennial Review of Education (1892-93 to 1896-97), by Mr. J. S. Cotton, published in the Gazette of India of the 4th November, 1899.—

I Provinces.	II No.	III Cost per month.	IV Average income per month.
		Rs.	Rs.
Bengal	113	29,250	259
Madras	32	10,850	339
Bombay	23	8,400	365
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	24	7,750	323
Punjab	17	6,100	359

Since the recent re-organization, the figures for Bengal have changed, so that the average monthly income is now Rs. 310. But it should be pointed out that this represents nothing real, for the average income in the case of the small number of officers, now in the highest classes, is much larger (nearly Rs. 500); while that of others in lower classes is in consequence much less than Rs. 300.

V.—Remedies.

"More money. It is essential that a large amount of money should be spent in improving the prospects of promotion.

"The number of posts in the three lowest classes should be considerably reduced, and there should be a corresponding increase in the number of appointments in the intermediate classes. The distribution of posts in the different classes should be on the same scale as in the case of the Provincial Executive

Service, and at the same time the class on Rs. 350 should be abolished and a class on Rs. 800 added. If these suggestions be accepted, the number and pay of eight classes of the Provincial Educational Service will be as follows:—

Class.	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Pay ...	800	700	600	500	400	300	250	200
Number of posts	2	3	6	20	30	30	17	15

"Another alternative suggestion may be made. The grade system may be altogether abolished and a system of progressive pay similar to that in vogue in the Indian Educational Service may be introduced. A Provincial Service officer appointed on Rs. 200 a month should get Rs 400 a month in ten years by an annual increment of Rs. 20 per month. He should then get an increment of Rs. 100 per month at the end of every five years.

"No appointment direct to a higher class should be made. It should be strictly insisted upon that all first appointments to the Provincial Educational Service should be made to the lowest class, and under no circumstances to a higher class. It appears that appointments direct to a higher class of the Provincial Educational Service arise in three different ways:—

(*a*) first, there are some special posts included in the Provincial Service List, to which it may be necessary to appoint officers on higher initial salaries than the minimum pay of the Provincial Service;

(*b*) Gentlemen of special merit, such as graduates of European Universities, are some times appointed direct to higher classes, and

(*c*) lastly, deserving members of the Subordinate Educational Service, when promoted to the Provincial Service, are often appointed to a higher class.

"As to (*a*), the remedy is to exclude the special posts from the Provincial Service, and introduce a system of progressive pay for those posts, as in the case of the Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction. In passing, I may be permitted to observe that this appointment should ordinarily go to the Provincial Service.

"As to (*b*), appointments may be made to the Indian Educational Service, or personal allowances may be granted.

"As to (*c*), there will probably be no difficulty in the future, since the minimum pay of the Provincial Service has now been raised to Rs. 200; provided all officers of the Subordinate Service, eligible for promotion to the Provincial Service, be promoted to that service, before they rise to class I (Rs. 250) in the Subordinate Service.

"The maximum pay should be brought in a line with the corresponding branches of the Executive and Judicial Services, in order to make the Educational Service permanently attractive.

"A fair number of the more meritorious members of the service should be allowed to hold Principalships of Colleges and the Assistant Directorship of Public Instruction should, as I have stated above, be thrown open to the service. And, in the interest of efficiency, it is of the utmost importance that capable Professors, who have made their mark as teachers or in research work, should not by way of promotion be drafted on to the Inspector's branch of the service. Teaching proper should be lucrative and honourable enough to attract or retain the best available talent in the country which, sad to think, is by no means the case, as it undoubtedly was before, when we had teachers and professors whose names are held in loving memory by generations of grateful students, who have made their mark.

"The present practice is to appoint Indians, as a rule, to the Provincial Service, while the Indian Service is recruited in England. When Europeans are appointed to the Provincial Service, they are generally appointed to the higher classes which tends to the block. Thus Educational appointments do not altogether depend on academic distinctions and educational qualifications, and distinctly inferior men, who cannot hold their own against the more meritorious members of the Provincial Service, are appointed to the superior service. On the other hand, even the most distinguished graduates of Indian Universities cannot, as a rule, aspire to be members of the Indian Service. This

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

could hardly have been anticipated at the time of the organization of the two services; and the effect is, that most of our distinguished Judicial Service or the more lucrative appointments under the Government of India, such as those in the Financial Department, some at least of the most distinguished Indian Judges of the High Court and members of the learned professions intended to devote their lives to teaching work, and but for the current anomalies they would have been Educationalists by profession as well as choice. The Local Government is powerless in the matter of rewarding genuine scholarship, and the most loyal and zealous service among the members of the Provincial Service, by promotion to the higher service and the two services, have come to be what they are not in theory. Scientists, of European reputation, and distinguished graduates and honours men of Oxford and Cambridge, whom for obvious reasons again I shall not name, are to be found among the ranks of the Provincial Service, even after 15 or 16 years of approved service in the department. A further anomaly has grown up in course of time. An Indian honours man of Oxford or Cambridge is in the Provincial Service, because recruited in India; while a European—perhaps his contemporary in England—perhaps his junior, with no higher academic distinction and sometimes decidedly his inferior in attainments, is in the higher service, because recruited in England.

"A comparison of dates would show that some of the Indian members of the Provincial Service, who have European qualifications, joined the Department long before the Provincial Service was organized. Those officers were placed outside the classified lists and naturally expected that, in course of time, they would be absorbed into the higher service. It is more than doubtful if they would have joined the Department, had they anticipated the present position and prospects of the Provincial Service. To them, the hardship and injustice is all the greater.

"Sir Alfred Croft, who was the Director of Public Instruction in Bengal when schemes for the Provincial Educational Service were being discussed, made no secret of his view that, by European officers he meant officers who had obtained high degrees in European Universities, and not merely by race. As the services are now constituted, an European officer can hardly be said in practice to mean an officer with European qualifications only.

"Previously, it was quite usual to promote deserving officers from the lower to the higher branch of the service. In this way, the following were appointed members of the Indian Educational Service: Babu Prasanno Kumar Sarvadhikary, Pundit Mohesh Chunder Nayaratna, Dr. P. K. Ray, Dr. J. C. Bose, Mr. M. M. Percival, Rai Bahadur Radhika Prasad Mookerjee and Rai Bahadur Bromho Mohon Mullick.

"I believe at one time there were no less than five or six Indians, that is $\frac{1}{5}$th or $\frac{1}{6}$th of the cadre, in the higher branch. There are in the Provincial Service officers enough to make similar promotions again possible, and, if this is done, it will in no way impair the efficiency or status of the superior service, and will remove the existing tensions in the Provincial Service; and the cheering prospects of promotion to really deserving men will considerably improve the latter service. As to the definite proposal of the Government of India, I beg to state in addition to what I have already stated—

(*a*) Only lately the intermediate grades of the service have been added to and the initial salary has been raised from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 a month. This has not altogether relieved the congestion in the service, and will not be relieved till the more distinguished officers are drafted on the superior service.

(*b*) It is obviously desirable that our best men should be attracted to the Education Department. The present constitution of the services, however, does not tend to this; and as I have tried to show, unfortunately for this country, its best talents are diverted on to other channels. I may be permitted to refer, in this connection, to the case of the holders of the State scholarships

elected by the Calcutta University. These scholarships are tenable in one of the older English Universities, *viz.*, Oxford or Cambridge, and according to the terms of the scholarship the scholar must graduate in one of these ancient seats of learning. It might have been expected that scholars, so trained, would elect to join the Education Department. With the exception of very few indeed, all the scholars elected to compete for the Indian Civil Service and mostly succeeded. While rejoicing that so many of my countrymen should have had an opportunity of entering the Civil Service through State aid, which they would probably not have been otherwise able to enter, I cannot help regretting that the Educational service should have failed to be attractive to a fair member of our State scholars. If it has failed to be attractive, it is because of disabilities and disqualifications, which are unknown even to the Civil Service. They should be removed, in order that there may be real reform and improvement; and here not the Local Government but the Government of India, which has been graciously pleased to move in the matter, not a day too soon, can be of great service, if it will.

"There is one other point to which I take this opportunity of drawing attention. There should be as little financial barrier as possible against the employment of a reasonable number of well-paid assistants and demonstrators in Government service and Technical Colleges, to enable the work to be properly developed; and also by way of furnishing training ground for good teachers. Though some expenditure would be involved, the return in output would be ample compensation and good men should have an opportunity of quick advancement. In our research scholars, we have a body of men who would be trained into a fair body of teachers and professors and whose services are not fully availed of at present. The result is, they have to go back to the services and professions which their less distinguished and capable contemporaries have joined before them much to their advantage, while they themselves were engaged in research work, that merely delayed and retarded their professional career. Unless the services of the research scholars are utilized in a way advantageous to them and to the educational service, research work is likely to be unpopular, which from the worldly point of view is not apparently paying.

"The special consideration in the Provincial Educational Service, of graduates in English Universities and Prem Chand and Ray Chand students, is contained in the orders laid down in paragraph 14 of the Bengal Government Resolution No. 1244, dated the 26th March, 1897. It runs thus:—That graduates in honours of English Universities and Prem Chand students should originally be appointed to class VI (Rs. 250) of the Provincial Educational Service; that after a service of three years in that class, they should have a claim to the first vacancy in class (V Rs. 300), and that after a further service of three years in that class, they should have a claim to the first vacancy in class IV (Rs. 400).

"Government Notification No. 774, dated the 21st February, 1900, extends the above privilege to successful Post Graduates Research scholars. In the rules issued in that notification, it was laid down that scholars and those who might desire to enter the Educational Service of the Government of Bengal, would be considered to have equal claims to employment with those who had been Prem Chand students.

"Government Notification No. 905, dated the 6th July, 1900, withdraws the above rules, on account of representations of other officers of the service, the service having since considerably enlarged.

"It is time to consider whether some special consideration and consequent modification of rules is not necessary, by way of encouraging graduates of English Universities, Prem Chand Ray Chand Students and Research scholars and other meritorious officers, whose claims cannot be adequately dealt with in the ordinary course of things.

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

"No less important a question is that of Government Grants, for with it is intimately connected the question of the Staffing of our Private Schools and Colleges. The grant of Rs. 80,000 a year, for private and Missionary colleges, the benefaction of the Government of India, is all too small, as those who have to weigh and adjudicate upon the claim of the different institutions know to their bitter regret and chagrin. Here the Eastern Bengal Government is, through similar beneficence, able to make separate provisions for the colleges within its jurisdiction, regarding the allotment of which the University authorities have as yet had no visible hand. The Local Government may fairly be asked to supplement the grants of the Supreme Government; and till that is possible, real reform must be slow and tardy. And our private schools stand in no less need of aid than our colleges, and aid such as is now forthcoming is, in many cases, not only inadequate but is worse than useless. An experienced and honoured Government servant, who has long retired on a well-earned pension, tells me that the meagre salaries received by the lower teachers in our aided schools are a grievance, which in these days of abnormally high prices, which have unfortunately to be referred to in every connection, demands prompt redress. Meagre salaries greatly prejudice the teaching in our schools; because the recipients of such salaries are compelled to supplement their resources by trying to earn other small sums of money as private tutors, a function which prevents them from giving undivided attention to their teaching work. The grants to schools are generally so small and depend upon compliance with conditions, which compel an utterly rotten system of school management. A school receiving a grant must itself contribute a definite quota or proportion to the school fund, must pay the teachers a definite scale of salaries and forfeit the grant, or submit to its reduction if it fails to comply fully. But full compliance with such conditions is impossible in the case of many village schools, and grants are therefore protected in some cases by means, which are hardly honourable. This state of things, according to my informant, who was himself a Secretary of one of these schools, which post he had to resign in disgust, exists and has always existed, probably not without the knowledge of some Educational Officers. That this is possible, in what should be the purest and most immaculate of Departments, is because the grants are of the most illiberal and insufficient character and depend upon impossible conditions. A high educational authority, the head of one of the foremost of our Missionary Colleges, assures me, that such a condition of things interferes with freer flow of private liberality in educational channels. A more generous and reasonable grant-in-aid system would call into existence more and better private schools and colleges and I would ask Your Honour to re-consider the grant-in-aid system as a whole and place it on a footing, needed to prevent its degenerating in the way that the experts, to whom I have referred, assured that it has degenerated.

"The educational needs of our Muhammadan friends are still much neglected; and, in connection with the forthcoming schemes of primary education, it is of the utmost inportance to consider whether adequate allotments should not separately be made in Muhammadan interest, in proportion to population, out of funds placed at the disposal of District Boards? The few model Muktabs, that have been started, cannot possibly make any impression on the situation, and much more expenditure is needed to remedy the educational backwardness of Muhammadans. An important question in this connection is, the need of employing teachers to teach Arabic and Persian, whose mother tongue is Arabic or Persian, as the case may be; and here also the question of money is bound to be predominent. A distinguished European official, identified with educational interests, was good enough to put it to me, in connection with the question of schooling fees, as to whether it would not be possible to make some concession in the case of two or more brothers at a Government school or College, *viz.*, the eldest might be charged full fee while the younger brothers might be charged less in some proportion to their numbers? I am told that such a system exists in the Punjab; and having regard to the educational backwardness of Muhammadans, I would respectfully suggest such an experiment, in their case, at all events, in these Provinces.

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

"Excluding expenditure under inspection, grants-in-aid and scholarships, we gather that the following special provision has been made for Muhammadan education :—

	Rs.
Calcutta Madrassa	61,800
Elliott Madrassa Hostel	5,109
Murshidabad Nawab's Madrassa	20,000
Muhammadan female education in Patna ...	1,200
Maktab scheme	3,420

"This is an educational field requiring and deserving special treatment, and we cannot persuade ourselves that all that can and ought to be done is being done in the matter. The educational backwardness of our Muhammadan fellow subjects is a reproach to the community, and the Government and Hindus would not only not grudge but would welcome measures, that would improve their position and give them equal educational advantage.

"The grants towards helping the Students' Hostels and Messes Committees will be inadequate next year, and at least twice as much as the last year's figure should be provided. Rupees 9,000 is the present grant to Calcutta hostels and messes, and it will have to be raised to at least Rs. 15,000

"We are glad and thankful that sanction has already been obtained for making necessary payments out of the general Educational grant of the year. The success or otherwise of the Hostel system will, for many reasons, and in many quarters, be keenly watched.

"The grant for Female Education is all too small, compared to its necessities and importance. We are told that a provision of more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ lacs have been made under this head, including training institutions for girls. Greater expenditure is necessary for obtaining suitable Zenana teachers, considering the difficulty of recruiting them, a difficulty that prospects of handsome remuneration alone may in time overcome.

"There is no special grant ear-marked in the budget in aid of Art Schools, a deserving class of institutions that are doing useful work, and which, if properly supported, may do better work, both esthetic and industrial. It would be possible to eke out suitable grants from the general grant, no doubt; but stress has to be laid on the subject in order to ensure attention.

"And generally it may be said that there is no country in the world, so poorly provided with endowments for educational purposes, as India, whether by the Government or the people; and yet there is no country more in need of them. As long as this is so, it is the duty of Government to provide for the maintenance of a system of universal Primary Education; for it is the first duty of a State to see that every child receives at least the elements of Education.

"Nor can Secondary and University Education be neglected, and they both must be put on a sound financial and rational basis.

"It is the Schools that require financial support and re-modelling first of all, for they are feeders of the University; and to secure this, teachers must be trained and their prospects improved. All this means money and, in present circumstances, we must look to the Government for it. A much larger and more adequate appropriation from the public funds, provincial and imperial, is now urgently required for the proper equipping and staffing of high schools and colleges and for the training of teachers before we can hope to see the improvement, which the new University Regulations were framed to effect.

"I would, therefore, urge upon the Government the necessity of setting aside a much larger sum for Education than has been done. Without this, it is vain to look for any real advance. Machinery, without motive power, is useless, if not worse.

"My remarks on Educational topics have reached undue proportions, and I have to apologise for such length. The aspects are so many and so varied that the barest reference to them is bound, in the aggregate, to be long. As the opportunities, even for such bare references, are so few, I trust that Your

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

Honour and the Council will pardon the length of remarks, which in more capable and practised hands and with greater leisure, might have been somewhat condensed.

"Closely allied to the subject of Education and no less important are those of Temperance and Social Purity, which seriously affect the moral welfare, and I do not know why I should not add, the physical welfare, of the City and the Province.

"The public are awaiting, with expectation, some pronouncement regarding the Bengal Excise Bill. I am informed that Your Honour's Council and the Select Committee appointed by it, spent many hours in the spring of 1904 upon what was then stated and admitted to be an urgently needed reform of the Bengal Excise Act, VII of 1878. This Council is well aware of the circumstances that have spelt procrastination in the re-submission of that Bill; but I think it well to point out that, in these four years, the net Excise revenue has risen in the Province from Rs. 1,30,11,358 to Rs. 1,53,44,423, or twenty-three lakhs in all. Each year that passes signifies the gradual spread of the drinking habits among certain classes of the people, and consequently greater difficulty in carrying out the avowed policy of the Supreme Government, to 'minimise temptation to those who do not drink and to discourage excess among those who do.'

"The evidence placed before the Excise Committee, recently appointed by Your Honour, revealed the unsatisfactory character of the present Excise Administration in this City—the steady increase of drinking, excessive facilities arranged on no apparent principle, and without local consideration—large sales of imported liquors among sections of the population who, according to the finding of the Excise Commission, should not use it—an undesirable congestion of shops in certain parts of the City, and of hotels in the neighbourhood of Bentinck Street, Wellington Street and other points too numerous to mention. As the findings of the Excise Committee have not yet been made public, though it is hoped they soon will be, I desire only to observe that the public will be disappointed if the results of that investigation and the character of the evidence adduced do not result in—

(*a*) an immediate and considerable reduction in the drinking facilities of the City;

(*b*) an administrative reform, under which the Revenue Executive shall share with some other authority the power of deciding the number and location of all future licenses;

(*c*) local opinion receiving much more consideration, so that to some extent the people chiefly concerned may have an opportunity of saying how many grog-shops they require and where they may be located;

(*d*) an insistence that the standard of quality of all liquors sold, whether country or foreign, shall be subject to periodical and rigid examination;

(*e*) a definite legislative measure, that shall not be a skeleton; allowing rules to be framed thereafter in accord with the personal idiosyncrasies of the Revenue authority for the time being, but that shall incorporate as part of the Act, all those reforms, the need of which has been so long admitted, *viz.*, no sales to children or drunken persons, the limit and hours of retail sales, the structural fitness and sanitary character of all shops, the minimum distance of one shop from another, and so on.

"In my own immediate neighbourhood, near the crossing of the Wellington Street with the Bow-bazar Street, there are two drinking-dens literally within a few hundred feet of one another, and both doing lucrative business all hours of the day and most of the night. The British Parliament is legislating to counteract the admitted curse of intemperance, as the result of which no less than 30,000 licenses will be abolished within the next few years. The Bengal Legislature, which has the opportunity of legislating to prevent the curse falling upon the country, is losing golden opportunity every day and is thereby

adding to the difficulties of the situation. In 1904, the Government of India objected to the local option clause. Then came the Commission and the Government of India's criticism on its findings; then the appointment of the late Excise Commission, and nothing more has been heard since, excepting rumours about divided opinion. In the meanwhile Intemperance, and revenue that prospers by intemperance, have been steadily increasing, and the agonized cry of a long-suffering public is, 'How much longer?'

"Turning now to a subject that is admittedly a difficult problem in our civic life, and upon which silence is supposed to be golden, I desire to voice the opinion of all the respectable sections of the various communities of the city to thank Your Honour for the legislative action taken in the recent amendment of the Calcutta Police Act. The judicious use of the powers, conferred by that Act upon the Commissioner of Police, has led to the most desirable removal of a number of houses of ill-fame from the vicinity of Churches and schools, and I would add theatres and places of public amusements and resorts; and no right-minded man can object to the student class of the city being kept, as far as possible, from unnecessary temptation. It is to be noted, however, that the Act aims further at dealing with the main thoroughfares and great channels of communication, and that the recommendation of the Municipal Commissioners is necessary, before Your Honour can notify the Commissioner of Police to take effective action in clearing such thoroughfares of undesirable habitations. I should like to inquire if the Commissioners know of the power thus placed in their hands by the Legislature, and, if so, how much longer are our Civic authorities going to permit some of our leading streets, including Corporation Street itself, to be a moral disgrace to the City?

"Objection may, with justice, be urged against a policy of disturbance that only drives the social sin to darker haunts away from public scrutiny, and as we ought not to have the *Jasowaras* of Japan or cannot have the *Saitanpura* of the Ain-i-Akbari days, where a list of all Visitors, including high officials, was scrupulously kept, segregation must proceed on proper basis. In this connection, it is worthy of consideration whether some system of the 'Homes' and 'Refuges' cannot be organized in suitable neighbourhoods, for rescue of those who are willing to leave the evil path; for it is not enough to unhouse and dislocate wrong, but there should be some attempt to encourage repentance. Your Honour appointed a Special Committee to report to you on certain aspects of this evil, which, if successfully dealt with, would go far to materially reduce the extent and character it has unfortunately been allowed to reach. I may assure Your Honour that, in this matter also, public opinion would approve and support any legislative action that would accord the young life of our city the protection and aid it may legitimately claim at the hands of the State. And nothing would be more grateful to us than to be able to see Your Honour complete the work that Your Honour has so well begun.

"Next, in point of importance, are Law and Justice, and I naturally turn first to the High Court under this heading. A sum of Rs. 3,000 has been sanctioned for strengthening the ministerial Department of the Appellate side of the High Court. No provision has, however, been made for the Original side of the Court, where every office is undermanned and every subordinate officer is under-paid. With the increase in the number of Original Courts, the ministerial work has enormously increased; and orders and decrees are necessarily delayed and work suffers generally. With the recent appointments of the Official Referee and Assistant Referee, the idea seems to have got abroad that the High Court must not expect any further assistance from the Government; and, if the idea is at all well-founded, no idea could be more disastrous. If the High Court Judges have themselves made no reference, all that can be said is, that such a reference ought to have been and ought to be made; for all who know anything of the working of the Original side of the Court, know that there is great dissatisfaction in the offices themselves and in the profession in all its branches. The High Court has now its new building nearly completed, and partial removal to it will soon take place. There will be considerable costs entailed by the removal, and if there is no budget provision for this, the removal can hardly wait another year. Here also some provision

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

is urgently needed. Before leaving this subject, I desire to voice the gratitude of the community on the permanent appointment of Mr. S. P. Sinha to a post of the highest trust, which was the unrealized day-dream of the foremost of Indian Advocates of the time, Mr. W. C. Bonerji for 'Moti, the Advocate,' never came about. I desire also to congratulate the Government, in this connection, on the better recognition of the claims of the Bar to Police Court appointments; greater confidence in which, let us hope, will soon be restored by more discriminating appointments and by overhauling the work and appointment of Honorary Magistrates. While Government Solicitors' and Public Prosecutors' fees and special fees, in what are known as *Swadeshi* cases, are more than ever, it is sincerely to be hoped that the rumours about attempts to cut down the emoluments of the highest Law Officers of Government are not well-founded.

"I may now be permitted to make some observations regarding the prospects of the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service. Important pronouncements have been made regarding the separation of Judicial from Executive functions, which we have not yet sufficiently understood and realized, and which will take time to ripen into practical work. Whatever happens, the Judicial Service will soon have to be placed on a sounder basis all round.

I.—Partition of the Subordinate Judicial Service.

"The Hon'ble Mr. Carlyle, in reply to a question by the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose, said in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 10th November, 1906, that the question regarding the separation of the Judicial Services of Bengal and Eastern Bengal was under the consideration of the Government. Though such a division would prejudicially affect the prospects of Munsifs of Eastern Bengal, our own Munsifs may be slightly better off, which may be a matter of congratulation so far. The total number of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges in both the Provinces is 314 and 61, respectively. At present, therefore, the proportion of Munsifs to Subordinate Judges is 5·1 to 1. But on Partition, in Eastern Bengal, there would be 136 Munsifs and 19 Subordinate Judges; and in Bengal, 178 Munsifs and 42 Subordinate Judges; that is to say, the proportion between the two branches of the Subordinate Judicial Service in Eastern and Western Bengal, would be 7·1 to 1 and 4·2 to 1, respectively. In other words, while at present, roughly speaking, one in every five Munsifs has the chance of being a Subordinate Judge, if the service be partitioned, in Eastern Bengal one in every seven; and in Western Bengal, one in every four, would have the same chance: that is to say, Munsifs of the old province will have nearly double the chance of those belonging to the new province, of being promoted to the superior branch. To render the chances equal in both the provinces, the number of Subordinate Judges in Eastern Bengal would have to be increased from 19 to 32. The average salary of a Subordinate Judge is Rs. 708 *per mensem*. To raise the present strength of the Subordinate Judges to the above figure, the Eastern Bengal Government shall have to spend Rs. (708×12×13=) 1,10,448 a year. We have no right to suggest any such expenditure to another Government; but this phase of the question of partition is of sufficiently general interest to be worthy of mention in this connection, specially as the appointments will still continue to be regulated by the High Court to a certain extent. And, in passing, the comparative bettering of the position of our own officers is worthy of note and admission.

"In the Budget debate of 1906 the Hon'ble Mr. Richardson, on behalf of the Government, was pleased to say: 'The Government has under its consideration certain proposals for improving the conditions of the Subordinate Judicial Service, as regards the rules regulating leave and pension.' Previous to this in March, 1906, the Hon'ble Mr Richardson in reply to a question by Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar said: 'The question of amending the rule according to which officiating periods of service cannot be counted towards pension is already under consideration, and the Government hopes to be able to make some definite pronouncement regarding it at an early date.' On the 10th November of the same year, in reply to Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu, Mr. Richardson

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

again said that the Bengal Government was in communication with the Government of India, with regard to these proposals. On the 12th January, 1907, the Government, replying to a question on the same subject, expressed itself as follows: 'The proposal that Munsifs should be permitted to count the broken period spent by them in officiating appointments before confirmation as pensionable service, is still under consideration.' The members of the service would feel gratified to learn that the proposals of the Bengal Government have been approved by the Government of India.

II.—INCREASE OF PAY AND PROSPECTS.

(*a*) *Abolition of the fourth grade.*

"The grievances of members of the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service, who are admittedly a 'very competent and deserving body of officers' (*vide* the Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild, in the Bengal Council on 8th February, 1908) are many and various. I mention here only the most prominent. First, as regards pay. It has often been urged (*vide* Calcutta Weekly Notes, 12th March, 1906, and 20th May, 1907), that Munsifs as soon as they are made permanent should be placed in the third grade on Rs. 250. At present, they officiate for two to three years on Rs. 200, and are then made permanent on the same salary in the fourth grade, which is called the 'probationary grade.' This is a misnomer, for Munsifs are recruited from the ranks of practising lawyers and three years of experience as officiating Munsifs give them a thorough judicial training. Their confirmation in service depends upon the favourable report of the District Judges under whom they serve. As Mr. Justice Jackson said long ago (quoted by Maharaja Jotindra Mohan Tagore in the Supreme Legislative Council on 28th March, 1877), 'Munsifs, even at the beginning of their career, are well prepared for the performance of their judicial duties, and failure in that respect is of great rarity.' The increase of pay here advocated can be supported on various grounds. In the first place, the price of food-grains, the wages of servants and house-rent have gone up to an extent unknown before; and, on this ground, the salaries of ministerial officers are soon to be increased. In the second place, formerly Munsifs used to begin service on Rs. 250, and the charge would merely rehabilitate them to their former condition. Thirdly, members of the Provincial Police Service draw an initial pay of Rs. 250, and neither in previous training and educational qualifications, nor in social status and official dignity, do they surpass members of the Judicial Service. Fourthly, that officers belonging to the Provincial Executive Service begin at Rs. 200 cannot be advanced as an argument against this proposal, for, generally speaking, a Deputy Magistrate begins to draw Rs. 200 when he is much younger, and at the age when a Munsif is confirmed in service, he usually draws Rs. 300 a month.* Fifthly, the increase of pay suggested above would work out to Rs. 29,400 *per annum*, which is less than the pay of one second grade District Judge. Sixthly, considering the profit which Government makes annually from civil litigation, amounting to considerably over fifty lakhs of rupees, this slight increase should not be grudged.

*The maximum age at which a Deputy Magistrates can enter service is 25, while the minimum age at which it is practicable for a Munsif to be confirmed in service is 30.

(*b*) *Personal Allowance to first grade Munsifs invested with higher original powers.*

"Again, Munsifs of the first grade who are vested with higher original powers should receive a personal allowance of Rs. 100 a month. It is well-known that the Government has often expressed its willingness to create a grade of Munsifs on Rs. 500 a month—thus admitting the necessity for such a grade—provided the High Court agreed to the abolition of the first grade of Subordinate Judges on Rs 1,000 a month. But the High Court has stood firm on that point, and quite justifiably in our opinion, with the consequence that Government has refused to create a special grade of Munsifs on Rs. 500. The solution of this problem may be found in granting a personal allowance, such as that proposed to such members of the first grade of Munsifs as are called upon to exercise jurisdiction over suits above Rs. 1,000, but not exceeding Rs. 2,000 in value. It

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

is obviously unfair not to give some additional remuneration to such Munsifs, for the extra work thrown upon their shoulders—work which is properly the sphere of Subordinate Judges. The bestowal of this special jurisdiction, on a large number of senior Munsifs, has made it possible for the Government to confine the strength of the higher original Courts to their present limits and saved it a large amount of expense. The arrangement would also have its analogy in the Executive Service, where special allowances are granted for special work; and this constitutes a considerable source of income to officers of that service.

(*c*) *Temporary Promotions.*

"Another serious grievance of the members of the Subordinate Judicial Service is, that when a Subordinate Judge or Munsif goes on deputation to a higher appointment or takes furlough, or some other kind of leave other than privilege and casual, the senior officers of all the lower grades in succession, down to the lowest, are not in any way benefited by the temporary vacancy thus caused in the service. To almost all the other departments of the Public Service —ministerial officers not even excepted—this indulgence is invariably shown.

(*d*) *Joining time and Additional Munsifs.*

"A practice has grown up by which Munsifs and Subordinate Judges are deprived of the joining time, to which they are entitled on transfer under the Civil Service Regulations. These officers are now transferred during short vacations not lasting more than three or four days, and ordered to take over charge at the new station on the re-opening day. More consideration should be shown to gentlemen of their position who usually live with their family and are put to the greatest inconvenience, by being transferred on such short notice. Similarly, the practice of appointing senior officers as extra or additional hands, to relieve congestion of work at particular places when the appointment of junior officers would serve the purpose just as well, should be discontinued, as it causes unnecessary hardship to the officers concerned.

(*e*) *Munsifs' Quarters.*

"Munsifs' quarters have been built in many sub-divisional towns and *chaukis*, and I welcome some additions in this year's budget. They are very welcome and supply a long-felt want. For, as Justice Prinsep in his Minute, dated 15th July, 1885 (*vide* Calcutta Gazette, Part I, 10th March, 1886), observed:—

'At the sub-divisions, contrast between the accommodation given to Judicial and Executive officials is specially remarkable in their private arrangements . . . . . The contrast is not only in the Court-houses, but in arrangements made for private accommodation. The Deputy Magistrate lives in comfort in a building belonging to the Government, the Munsif must be content with the best lodging that he can procure; and when his Court is often placed in a small village, the only lodging procurable is so unsuitable that he is forced to send his wife and family to his own home Is it surprising that, with such disadvantages, the Executive should be regarded as the favoured service, and that Judicial Officers should feel that their interests and comforts are neglected? In education, in intelligence, in devotion to the public service, in public estimation, I venture to state that the officers of the Subordinate Judicial Service are not surpassed by those of any other department under the Government. Why, then, should the claims of this branch of the service always be deferred to those of other departments?'

"The attempt that is being made, to provide Munsifs in outlying stations with suitable dwelling-houses, therefore, deserves all praise. But it must, nevertheless, be urged that the scale of rent fixed for such houses, *viz.*, 10 *per cent.* of the pay, operates with undue severity on the Munsifs; for a house-rent of Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 per month in a mufassal village is rather high, and is usually more than can be commanded by the best private residences. A more reasonable scale would be the one given below, and I recommend it for the favourable consideration of the Government:—

Munsifs.	House-rent.
	Rs.
1st grade	30
2nd ,, ...	25
3rd ,, ...	20
4th ,, ...	15

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

"It would not be out of place to mention here that Deputy Magistrates who are Sub divisional Officers, have to pay no house-rent at all.

(*f*) *Secret Reports.*

"Two other grievances, which require to be dealt with in a sympathetic spirit, may now be mentioned. In submitting their annual Administration Reports, District Judges are required to record their opinions regarding 'the character, qualifications and official merits of the Subordinate Judicial Officers' (Rule 63, Chapter X, General Rules and Circular Orders of the High Court, Volume I). These opinions are treated as strictly confidential and never made known to the officers concerned, and yet they form the basis of their promotion and preferment.

"It has often been ruled by the Privy Council (*vide* X, C.W.N. 969) and the Calcutta High Court (*vide* XII C.W.N. 65), as an elementary principle, which is binding on all persons who exercise judicial or *quasi*-judicial powers, that an order should not be made against a man's interest, without giving him an opportunity for being heard. Is it then just that the very officers, who have been warned by the High Court not to pass judgment against a person without giving him a chance of defending himself, should be condemned unheard by the High Court? Such a procedure is rapidly demoralizing the whole service, and officers are coming more and more to think that to keep the District Judge in good humour is the sole duty of their official existence, for it is a terrible weapon that has been placed in the hands of the District Judge; for District Judges, like all other persons, are very human, and if it is necessary in the interest of discipline to arm them with great power over their Subordinate Judicial Officers, it is also necessary, in the interests of justice and efficiency, that the latter should be given an opportunity of being heard in self-defence, before action is taken against them on the *ex parte* statement of their official superiors. Sir Richard Couch is reported to have said (*vide* the speech of Maharaja Jotindra Mohan Tagore in the Supreme Council, Gazette of India, 28th April, 1877): 'The appeal from a Munsif is in most cases heard by a Judge, who is not superior in knowledge and ability to the Judge whose decision is appealed against; in some instances, he is inferior,' Sir William Markby is also known to have expressed similar views. Is it likely that Munsifs should not feel conscious of this, and being conscious, should not regard the implicit reliance of the High Court, on the opinions of District Judges in matters concerning themselves, as more or less in the nature of an anomaly, besides being iniquitous? The Hon'ble Mr. Gait, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, said the other day in giving evidence before the Decentralization Commission, that officers of the Indian Civil Service who were unfit for higher appointments should be compelled to retire on such pension as they had earned; but he was careful to add that he would not extend the rule to the Provincial Civil Service, and his reason was: 'one sees such divergent opinions expressed about the same officer.' Every member, of both the branches of the Provincial Civil Service, knows to his cost how true it is. If ability had been considered the sole test of merit, such divergent opinions would not be possible; the fact of the matter is, that these opinions are almost always coloured by the personal preconceptions and idiosyncrasies of the Civilians under whom members of the Provincial Service happen to serve for the time being, and it is therefore neither safe nor just to rely absolutely on such opinions. One of the most estimable of men and officers, that it has been my fortune to know, was kept out of his long deserved Subordinate Judgeship, because of his having been described in the secret reports as 'Erratic;' and not a little endeavour was necessary on the part of a sympathetic High Court before this cloud was lifted.

(*g*) *Representations.*

"The other matter, which arises for consideration in this connection is, that at present there is no well-defined channel for laying the grievances of individual Subordinate Judicial Officers before the High Court, in the matter of transfer and the like, it being entirely discretionery with District Judges to forward to the High Court any representation made by a Subordinate Judicial

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

Officer. If Munsifs and Subordinate Judges are expressly authorized to communicate demi-officially with the Registrar of the High Court on these subjects, or if it be made compulsory on the part of District Judges to forward such representations with his remarks, favourable or otherwise, the complaint would cease to exist. In the matter of demi-official correspondence, members of the Provincial Executive Service enjoy greater facility; in the case of the Provincial Judicial Service, District Judges or the Registrar of the High Court do not always treat such correspondence with consideration.

IV.—Disposal, the Sole Test of Merit.

"It is a matter of common complaint among members of the Subordinate Judicial Service, and it is also well-known to lawyers practising in the Mufassal, that disposal has now become the sole test of merit, and a good Munsif is daily coming more and more to mean one who shows a large numerical out turn of work. It is forgotten that an officer who, besides the usual routine work, shows a daily average of say two contested cases, must either deal generally with easy cases, or do his work in a slipshod and perfunctory fashion. To sacrifice quality of work to quantity is a most mischievous policy, and is bound to lead to the deterioration of the service and serious injustice. When a Judicial Officer has to dispose of a large number of cases, within a fixed time, there is hardly much scope left him for a careful consideration of all the points at issue, and the study and discussion of the questions of law and fact involved. The District Judges are required to submit a concise statement regarding the outturn of work of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges once every quarter, and rule 59 of Chapter X of the General Rules and Circular Orders of the High Court says: 'these statements will be taken into consideration by the Court in connection with transfers and promotions in the Subordinate Judicial Service.' Generally, though not always, the High Court calls for explanations from such officers as are found to have shown a deficient outturn of work; and the number of such explanations, which the High Court has to consider every quarter and ultimately accept as satisfactory, must be very large indeed. But what I was going to point out is, that there is no rule emphasizing the need of examining the quality of the judgments delivered by these officers, which ought to be a matter of greater importance, if justice be the primary object aimed at. Had such a rule existed, the average outturn would certainly have been smaller, and the number of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges would have to be increased.

V.—Status and Prestige of the Subordinate Judiciary.

"The status and prestige of Subordinate Judicial Officers instead of being gradually improved are being steadily lowered, thus bringing them down more and more to the level of ministerial officers in relation to the District Judge. It will not be denied that in point of culture, learning and ability, the difference between the District Judges and the Subordinate Judiciary has appreciably diminished, and that the proper relation between them ought to be that subsisting between Senior and Junior colleagues. A little more consideration, for the feelings and sensibilities of members of the Subordinate Service, would add immensely to its popularity.

(*a*) *Contract Contingency grants.*

"Take, for instance, the case of the small monthly expenditure which have to be incurred in every Munsif or Subordinate Judge's office, and which are met from the District Judge's contract contingency grants. These expenses are necessary in connection with the purchase of matches, candles, small articles of furniture and the like, and in executing petty repairs. No distinction is, however, made between large and small items, and for every pice spent by the Munsif or Subordinate Judge, the previous sanction of the District Judge has to be obtained. Not only does a Munsif try suits up to Rs. 1,000 in value, but in Small Cause Court cases he is vested with final and summary jurisdiction, with respect to suits up to the value of Rs. 100. A Subordinate Judge has unlimited original jurisdiction and exercises Small Cause Court powers over

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

money suits, not exceeding Rs. 500 in value. Government officers, who are vested with such large powers over the pecuniary concerns of the public, including the Secretary of State for India, cannot spend a pice out of the public funds without the District Judge's permission. This irksome, irritating and unnecessarily suspicious policy of petty pinpricks should be abolished; and the interests of economy would be sufficiently safeguarded if a small uniform scale of monthly grants were sanctioned to meet the contingent charges of Subordinate Judicial Officers, and the registers of such expenditure kept by them subjected to periodical inspection by the District Judge.

(*b*) *Ministerial Appointments.*

"In official parlance, a Munsif or a Subordinate Judge is the head of an office, and the District Judge is the head of a Department. At present, all appointments, down to that of an orderly peon which is likely to last for more than two months, are made by the District Judge, under section 31 of the Civil Courts Act of 1887. Under the Civil Courts Acts of 1871 and 1881, however, all appointments, in a Munsif or Subordinate Judge's establishment, used to be made by the head of the office himself, subject to the approval of the District Judge. The effect of this change has almost invariably been the reduction of the head of the office to a cypher in the estimation of his staff, and the bestowal of unlimited patronage in the hands of the District Judge's sarishtadar and the nazir. This centralization of power, in the Civil Judicial Department, is irritating and unnecessary. There is no statutory rule which makes it incumbent on the District Judge to consult a Subordinate Judicial Officer when promoting, transferring or degrading a ministerial or menial officer on his establishment; and oftener than not, the District Judge acts in these matters on his own initiative, without reference to the head of the office. This is not calculated to raise the Subordinate Judiciary in the esteem of *amladem*; nor does it make the maintenance of discipline easier for them.

(*c*) *Power of District Judges to suspend Munsifs.*

"A most significant illustration of the anachronism which characterizes some of the provisions of the Civil Courts Act is furnished by section 29, which lays down that a District Judge may in urgent cases go the length of suspending a Munsif and report the fact at once to the High Court. This rule was framed to meet the exigencies of a time long past, when Munsifs were no better than the *amlas* of the present day in respect of education and reputation for honesty, and when communication was not so easy as at present. Now-a-days it is impossible to conceive of a case of judicial corruption or misconduct so urgent that it cannot be suitably dealt with by the High Court, through the medium of the electric telegraph with due despatch and promptitude. As a matter of fact, District Judges do not find it necessary to exercise the power vested in them by this section; but the fact that it exists on the Statute Book none the less shows how slow the Government is to move with the times, in matters affecting the Subordinate Judicial Service. This unnecessarily humiliating provision should be repealed, as the first step towards an improvement in the status of the Service.

"Munsifs have been described as 'Judgment-producing machines,' and it is well-known that they are overworked. Nobody will deny that the improvements here suggested, if carried out, will make their lot a little happier. To the vast majority of them, the hope of a first grade Subordinate Judgeship or an Officiating District Judgeship, at the end of their career, is a delusion and a snare. Such illusory prospects do not tempt them or cheer up the gloom of a singularly monotonous career, which often ends in diabetes and premature death. Some of the real hardships and grievances from which they suffer, I have tried to point out at the risk of being voted wearisome, and I shall not mind this vote if some good comes to the services. Visions of glory, such as those implied by a remote District Judgeship, are not unoften displayed before their eyes (*vide* the Hon'ble Mr. Richardson's speech in the Bengal Council on 7th April, 1906), but more substantial good will be done to them if, instead of

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

wasting time in drawing such eloquent fancy-portraits, the powers that be were to devote their attention to a few simple remedies and make an earnest and sympathetic attempt to give effect to them.

"Let me now briefly refer to some other items of the budget, which would require more detailed and careful examination; but which after taking up so much of the time of the Council already, I can now ill afford. Foremost of these is the question of Sanitation. Complaints were made at the previous year's Budget debate regarding the insufficiency of provision under the head of Sanitation, having special regard to the increasing ravages of Malaria. Provision for combating Malaria should be clearly shown and be sufficient. Under the head of 'Sanitation' would come the items about which pointed attention was drawn last year—

(*a*) jungle-clearing;
(*b*) improvements of silted rivers and water-channels, such as the Bhairab valley drainage and Bhagirathi valley drainage;
(*c*) removal of obstruction of water-courses;
(*d*) improvement of water-supply in the mufassal—sinking of artesian wells to which attention was called last year, and excavation of tanks.

"Under heading 'Miscellaneous' (page 4, Appendix), grants for some Water-works are shown. No provision for the Hooghly Water-works has been shown, because no scheme has been yet matured. But it ought to be matured at once, and will, we hope, be ready next year. There is a strong public feeling with regard to this matter, and it is important to bear in mind that on the improvement of the health of places near Calcutta, towards which greater Calcutta could extend, would to a considerable extent depend the health of Calcutta. Great things have recently been claimed on behalf of Calcutta, about which Calcutta residents are naturally sceptical. Realization of the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, in the not very distant future, has again been promised, and Your Honour has vigorously summoned lagging merchants to their places in the front, in which they were with so much solicitude placed. But let us reiterate, as our representatives have pressed over and over again, that a better and greater Calcutta will not be possible till the surroundings are cleared and till Calcutta concerns are once more placed in hands that have the most interest in them, by a judicious and sympathetic amendment of the Municipal Act. The civic wet-nursing that has gone on so far, is pronounced insufficient, nay, unwholesome, and Municipal Government is described as a 'hopeless farce,' under the new-born system. And the fumes of the ten-year old vintage are still very much in evidence, judging from the utterances of the Hon'ble Mr. Larmour, to which we have just listened. Never could there be better opportunity of amending the Act than when the present and the past Chairman of the Corporation are on the Council, and when the Council may have further the assistance of several present and past members, who know and know its working thoroughly well. And it would be exceedingly appropriate and grateful, Sir, to have the close of Your Honour's *régime* associated with the restoration of metropolitan civic life. If the needs of greater Calcutta were more in view, we should not have had to send away the Engineering College at an enormous cost from unhealthy surroundings, which a mere fraction of the cost of the proposed removal would improve.

"We are thankful that the general question of Sanitation is engaging the attention of the Government of India, and a small Imperial grant has after all been made. What sanitary improvements can do, in the way of lowering death rates, can be seen in England, where death rate has been reduced from 20 to 15·5 per thousand in 20 years. During a similar period in India, it has gone up from 28 per thousand to 36 per thousand. The representatives of the people are, therefore, bound to draw pointed attention to the matter, year after year. The necessity of providing and clearing tanks and wells in the Mufassal should be incessantly impressed upon all local bodies; and, having regard to the dangerous river pollution that has been steadily going on for some years in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, the question of supply of filtered water, within the

mill regions, along both the banks of the Hooghly, cannot possibly be trifled with. Mr. Hanikin's recent researches show that the water of the Ganges and the Jumna is hostile to the growth of the cholera microbe, not only owing to the absence of food materials but owing to the actual presence of an antiseptic of a mysterious description, that has the power of destroying this microbe. Science has thus justified time-honored tradition; but we are afraid that this may not strengthen our protest against pollution, but may, on the other hand, justify, prolong and vindicate that pollution in the interest of trade and industry.

"Regarding jungle-clearing and other important sanitary undertakings, I desire to draw the attention of the Government and of the district authorities to the recent formation of bands of sanitary workers all over the country. The merest of helps and the slightest of encouragements—at all events absence of all discouragement—will be a great help to these veritable '*pioneers*,' who Ruskin-like are determined, spade in hand, to do a much neglected and long-needed work. What good work in these directions our young men are capable of, was abundantly illustrated in connection with the recent *Ardhodaya Jog* festival, as Your Honour was good enough to testify; and it would be a gain all round to promote and encourage such work and bring people back to the olden ideas of things, in which the King and the King's officers have to lead the way. His Majesty the King-Emperor has been graciously pleased to do so already by his sympathetic pronouncements, in connection with plague prevention. It remains for the officers to follow suit, and however much one may spend money on rat-catching or flea-destroying, which subsequent scientific ideas discountenance, the outstanding fact remains that Sanitation proper should not be neglected; and before hygienic novelties are pressed on a starving people, they should be better fed, better housed, better clothed, have better drains and better water supply. When these common-place necessities are forthcoming, sanitary reforms will be automatic, and to this end our strenuous and serious efforts must bend.

"The provision for compensation for dearness of food ought, I think, to be enlarged; we are once again thankful to Your Honour for Your Honour's powerful plea in the Imperial Council in this behalf. With increasing dearness of food, the sufferings of the lower middle classes is indescribable; and relief to clerks drawing Rs. 50 and under and not Rs. 30 and under should at least be provided. I am glad the Hon'ble the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad has also taken this view of things. In Bombay, where the suffering is less, there has been, I understand, a provision like this. This will no doubt entail much heavier expenditure, but the situation demands it. We are glad to have the assurance of Your Honour's Secretaries that the matter is separately under consideration, and we hope to see early fruition. A painful and regrettable phase of the scarcity question is, the increase of registration fees, indexing indiscriminate transfer of holdings, apparently to money-lenders to stave off the passing evil of the hour. It is a serious question whether this cannot and ought not to be minimised, if not stopped, and whether the scope of the relief-loan system cannot be suitably enlarged? At all events, in deserving cases, which ought not to be difficult to discriminate, full profits should not be made out of the people's woes; and the scale of fees may be capable of revision, though a discount, and by no means a premium, ought to be put upon thoughtless and avoidable alienation.

"Allied to this is the subject of Famine Relief which is really of no greater importance, for the sufferings of our lower middle classes are past describing and imagining. We are told that the amount that may be required, according to the latest revised reports received from the local officers under Famine Relief, has been provided for thus:—

	1907-08.	1908-09.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial	8,00,000	7,50,000
Provincial	...	2,50,000

"If the situation alters, so as to necessitate a larger expenditure for the purpose of giving adequate relief, an additional grant will be made, we are told,

[Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.]

with the sanction of the Government of India, which is satisfactory so far and there need be no present apprehension about the matter.

"One phase of the question is, however, a puzzle to me—the recent strikes and labour difficulties and the difficulty of obtaining domestic servants, in spite of admitted and patent scarcity. If these difficulties are so noticeable, even in times of stress and trouble, the question of legislating upon the relations of master and servant and of artisan and employer, and between capital and labour, generally, cannot long be relegated to the back ground, if serious economic, social and domestic troubles are to be avoided. A philanthropically inclined gentleman offered to pay for the travelling, clothing, up-keep, treatment and employment and return home, after a stated time, of a hundred persons from a famine area, and he had no response. The Government and the people are alike interested to ask and know as to what this may mean?

"We are grateful that Your Honour's Government is, through the medium of the recent Fisheries inquiries, doing important work, for bettering the food-supply of the country; and I sincerely hope to see early success of these labours. I confess that, for what such opposition might be worth, I was opposed to the purchase of a fishing trawler, for which budget provision has been made, and even the knowledge that the purchase was already a *fait accompli* did not seem to me to alter the situation. I had, however, the advantage of talking the matter over with Mr. Ahmed, whom Your Honour has selected for carrying on Mr. K. G. Gupta's work, and I was convinced of the immense possibilities in the direction aimed at. I desire, therefore, openly to withdraw my opposition and give the provision my humble support, none the less warmly, because we hope to have the proud distinction of setting an example even to the first City of India. But what I do complain of about the matter is, the *fait accompli* element; for we do not understand, at least without some explanation, why budget provisions should be needed or made for what had already been not only decided on, ordered and purchased, but was actually on its way out? In these remarks, I desire to include the provision for the second cruiser for the Sandheads, at a cost of nearly five and-a-half lakhs of rupees, which, as we gather, is similarly situated.

"A large item of a lakh and twenty thousand rupees has been allotted to the Calcutta Municipality, for re-alignment of drains in the new Presidency Jail. We are told that the Government of Bengal was committed to this expenditure, when the Victoria Memorial Scheme was inaugurated. I have not been able to get particulars of such a committal; but I do venture to think and urge that it is the Memorial Funds that ought to bear these costs, as well as the cost of building the Jail, a lac and fifty thousand out of which is budgetted this year, particularly, as there seems to be no immediate or very near prospects of more beneficial employment of the funds. Wherever else it may be, there is in my mind no confusion of ideas regarding the matter.

"A large sum of Rs. 45,000 has been budgetted as a grant for alteration of the Circular Canal Bridge. I submit this is unnecessary and undesirable, and I would respectfully ask Your Honour to expunge this item. The existing bridge, though old and old fashioned, is good enough for its purposes, and the improvements are needed for the benefit of the Tramway Company, who will take their trebly reproductive lines over the bridge. They will pay a mere paltry sum of Rs. 15,000 and the remaining 45,000 is to be paid by the Government, for which there is no plea or justification. Only the other day, a very necessary bridge on the southern side of the canal was negatived, though the Corporation was ready with a handsome contribution; and if any money is to be spent on bridges by the Government, it should be for the provision of urgently needed new bridges like this, and not by way of aiding and benefitting private enterprises, steadily earning fat dividends

"I have trespassed far too long on the patience and forbearance of the Council, and my apology once again is the vast and varied range of interests to be traversed. The Budget debate is about the only opportunity that non-official members have of drawing the attention of Government to important public questions, though in the course of the year there may be some change for the

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari*; *Babu Gajadhar Prasad.*]

better, or as some apprehend for the worse. What is in store, is hidden away from the ken of normal humanity and is veritably on the knees of the gods. The heart is weary and sick with waiting, and it is best not to pitch public expectation too high, lest the disappointment be proportionate. After longer years of travail and labour than memory can recall, the first move towards the bettering of the relations between the Judicial and the Executive is about to be attempted, but commentaries and elucidations are awaited with interest for expounding the situation. Public judgment has therefore been judiciously suspended, and upon Your Honour's Government and the Government of East Bengal, the close connection between which is thus officially emphasised, will fittingly devolve the first toils of elaborating schemes, pregnant with possibilities.

"The present is not only an anxious time, but is also a time of stress, strain and struggle, the character of which is hard to divine and will be harder to control, if due appreciation and restraint are wanting all round. So long as people's interests are in the hands of officials like those that welcomed the pick of our culture at the Rector's Jubilee party last month under shadows of sickness and sorrow that, thank Heaven, are gradually lifting, there need be no serious apprehension about the future. It is no less a misfortune of the governors than of the governed, that there can be but the least affinity in this country between the official head and the official hand, the official heart and the official tongue, for the tongue dare not utter what the heart feels, and the hand is not permitted to do what the head dictates. The limitations and possibilities of officials in India are unique, such as are not open even to those born unto the purple elsewhere, for the veriest tyro may rule rulers of men to-morrow. Amidst hollow artificialities and in mistaken zeal, however, golden opportunities are often worse than frittered away. There is no country in which people are more thankful for the smallest of small mercies, and not the least of the achievements of the Decentralization Commission will be the bettering of the relation between officials and non-officials to which throughout its sittings so much prominence has justly been given. Such cordiality, if genuine, will of itself solve many an outstanding administrative problem of difficulty, and the gentlest of whisperings will achieve more than the most brutal of the doomed whipping. 'Live and let live' is the agonised cry, and when the pursuer, the prosecutor and the punisher are different under the new *régime*; when prestige ceases to loom unhealthily large; when superior courts and officers have not, at every step, to check magisterial and executive vagaries, as has almost been the rule in the near past all over the Continent; when living, education and sanitation are all broad-and-firm based;—then and then alone will the ruler's work be easy, profitable and pleasant, and then will people realize that the prospect is not so gloomy, so weary, or so desolate, and they have something real to live for and work for. While Mr. Redmond is with mock-pathos and moderation pleading for the same treatment for the Irishman as the Frenchman receives at Quebec and the Dutch in the Transvaal, the Indian is the object of contempt and contumely at home and abroad, and the situation is getting more and more complex, with possibilities of mischief in unscrupulous hands. The antidote can never be growing repression and the attachment of the bayonet and the baton to the same belt. Larger confidence and greater premium on endeavours on the side of law and order, are sovereign remedies, and sympathy and appreciation can work marvels even at the breaking-point. Under soothing and wholesome influences like these, law and order are bound to be assured commonplaces, and the power of resisting plague, famine and other earthly woes may yet return to a people, the last vestiges of whose manhood are fast ebbing away, by a long course of untold sufferings. Under the changed order of things the cultivation of stout optimism, the lastest of scientific panaceas, may be possible, and it is devoutly to be hoped that a 'morning of morbid tendencies and incapacity' will veritably be 'changed to an eventide of productive usefulness.'"

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said:—"Your Honour—It has often been said that the debate on the Budget has at best an academic interest and is utterly hollow in its character. But I feel no hesitation

[*Babu Gajadhar Prasad.*]

in making the remark that Your Honour's Government has effected improvements in the system which prevailed in the past, and is certainly favourably inclined towards a real expansion of the privileges which we, the non-official Members of the Council, at present enjoy. The informal discussion of the Financial Statement among the Members, both official and non official, before its formal presentation to the Council is an important departure from the old beaten lines and likely to be productive of some good to our community.

"I deem it my duty first to congratulate the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary on the simplicity and lucidity of the statement which he has laid upon the table. I am sorry he has not been able to show any large surplus; indeed we have not got before us a Prosperity Budget. Famine Stricken Provinces can hardly be expected to have Prosperity Budgets.

"I think it fair to thank the Government of India for making an additional grant of Rs. 22,47,000 from the Imperial Revenues, and to thank Your Honour for making provisions in the Budget for Famine Relief and for other works of sanitary, educational and agricultural improvements. But I cannot at the same time help mentioning that the sum of money allotted for the purpose of Famine Relief does not seem to be enough for the year 1908-1909. It is well-known that the paddy crops have suffered much this year; somewhere by inundation, somewhere by drought and somewhere by both. Comparatively very small areas in Bihar yielded a normal quantity of paddy. I think the villages situated on both sides of the canals only had a normal quantity of paddy. The *rabi* in many cases could not be properly sown for want of moisture in the soil at the time of sowing; but some lands were anyhow sown, and the prospects of *rabi* seemed to be brilliant. Unfortunately in some parts of Bihar, they also have suffered from heavy hailstorms and rains, and many tenants have lost a good deal of money and labour over these crops. In short, the year is a bad one and all sorts of crops have been more or less damaged. Orissa is stricken with Famine, and I am afraid lest Bihar should be similarly affected.

"I am fully aware of the fact that the distress in some other parts of India is greater and more severe than in Bengal; but I cannot close my eyes to the intense scarcity which is afflicting the millions in our midst. It is possible that the Government may soon be called upon to face the difficulty and to take some measures for the protection of the people under its charge. The budget itself shows that there has been an increase in the income from Registration. This fact is an index to the poverty of the people and to the greater and greater hold which the money-lender is day by day having upon them. Under the circumstances, the Government should be prepared to spend a large amount of money for this purpose; the provision in the Budget is not adequate. In every year of abnormal distress, such items of expenditure, as can be conveniently put off, should be put off; for instance, the reclaiming of the Sundarbans at the cost of Rs. 50,000, survey of the Sundarbans at the cost of Rs. 20,000 and such other items. The sum of money, thus saved, should be devoted to the relief of the poor. In answer to my question in the Council meeting on the 8th February, the Government was pleased to state as follows:—

'The Government is aware that the prices of food-grains in Bihar are high, but there is no Famine anywhere at present. Takavi loans are being given freely in districts where they are needed, and arrangements have been made for relief operations. These will be commenced without delay should the necessity arise.'

"But unless we provide a sufficient amount of money in the Budget no arrangement can be satisfactorily made for relief operations, should such a necessity arise.

"In this connection, I note with pleasure that the Government generously desires to continue the grant of Grain Compensation Allowance to low-paid officers, but I should be glad if we could afford to grant some such compensation to all officers drawing less than Rs. 50 per month; for there is no doubt that the middle classes of our people are feeling most the severity of the Famine.

[*Babu Gajadhar Prasad.*]

"*Irrigation.*—I am glad to find that much has been done and is being done for Canal Irrigation. It is through the Sone Canal this year, that large areas situated on both sides of the canal yielded paddy crops and have got good *rabi*. It appears from experience that we cannot have full rain every year. As the large majority of the people of this Province live upon agriculture and their well-being depends upon proper arrangement for irrigation, and as it is impossible to have canals in every locality, I beg respectfully to suggest the introduction of a system of well-irrigation. The system of well-irrigation has, I hear, been tried in the Madras Presidency and there is no reason why it should not be tried in our part of the country. In Bihar, the depth of the well is not very great. If the Government provides big wells with big water-lifting machines, it is very likely that it would be a source of considerable profit, both to the Government and to the people. If the Government is required to spend Rs. 20,000 on the well irrigation of a village, having 1,000 bighas, and if it charges Rs. 3 a bigha as water rate, it would mean a substantial help to the people and a clear source of income to the Government. In places where it is not practicable to have canal irrigation, it would, I submit, be expedient to establish a system of well irrigation. In my opinion, no tenant or zamindar will grudge to pay water-rate for irrigation by means of wells; they will rather pay more for it than for canal-irrigation, and that for the following reasons:—

(*1*) They will be sure of having some produce every year.

(*2*) According to my information, gathered from experienced cultivators, well-water brings out larger produce than canal-water. Well-water is a better fertiliser.

(*3*) Some lands in some localities irrigated by canal-water are being deteriorated day by day on account of silt deposit, and there is no such risk in Well-irrigation.

(*4*) When on account of drought rivers are dried up, canals cannot supply a sufficient quantity of water; but that will not be the case with wells.

(*5*) In his budget speech at the Bengal Council on the 7th April, 1906, the Hon'ble Mr. Inglis very properly remarked: 'With respect to Irrigation, in my opinion, it is undoubtedly the case that where, as on the Sone Canals, rice has taken the place of other crops, requiring less water or not requiring irrigation at all, there is some increase in sickness, which we call in a general way malarial fever. This may be due to a rise in the level of the sub-soil water or to other causes; but, whatever the cause, I believe it to be a fact that you cannot have a purely artificial cultivation of rice on a large scale without some bad effect on health' This evil cannot exist if Well-irrigation is resorted to. Again, there is another useful means of irrigation. But this also cannot be utilized without the help of the Government. There are numerous small rivers and rivulets which can be used as canals, for irrigation purposes.

"I have noted above my humble suggestions for the provision of greater facilities for Irrigation; they are based on crude ideas and have not been subjected to scientific scrutiny. But the subject is so important that I beg to invite the attention of the Government to it, and to request that it may consult its scientific experts, and see if it can take any such action in the matter. We should never lose sight of the fact that India is an agricultural country, and that any harm to its agricultural interests would spell its ruin.

"*Excise.*—It cannot but be deplored that the Government is under the necessity of accepting revenue from the liquor traffic. It is now a well-established fact that intemperance is a curse, and that no pains should be spared for its suppression. In every age and in every country, it has been severely condemned; and nowhere more than in India. The people of our land are by their habits, as also by their religions, remarkably averse to drink. Anything, therefore, which places temptations in their way and which has the likely effect of leading them astray, should be deprecated as much as possible. The Government should do all that it can for the discouragement of the liquor traffic; no anxiety for gain should interfere with the right performance of its duties. And I am glad that not only the Government of Bengal but the

[*Babu Gajadhar Prasad.*]

Government of India and the Secretary of State have more than once given out their approval of the principle I have referred to above.

"The Government of Bengal in its Resolution appointing the Commission of 1883-1884 stated: 'It is unnecessary here to recapitulate all that has been said against and in favour of the outstill system, which is in force over practically the whole area of the Province outside Calcutta and its environs. One thing is clear, that there has been a serious increase in drinking among the people. That increase is not confined to the area under the outstill system, but that it has taken place throughout a great part of that area is not open to question. Whether the causes in operation are the same as those which have caused the increase in the smaller area under the Sader distillery, or whether they are special causes, either inherent in the system or brought into force by the present application, it is impossible for the Government to allow this increase in drinking to continue, without making every effort to ascertain their causes, and if possible to remove them. No consideration of revenue can be allowed to outweigh the paramount duty of the Government to prevent the spread of Intemperance, so far as it may be possible to do so.' I believe there has been no change in the policy of the Government since 1883, when this Resolution was published.

"Your Honour's Government has always been friendly to the cause of Temperance. The actual Excise revenue in 1906-1907 was Rs. 1,60,81,92, and the revised estimate of 1907-1908 was Rs. 1,70,00,000, the present budget estimate is Rs. 1,75,00,000, half of which is our Provincial share. Such a big jump in the Excise revenue is deplorable. If the estimate of revenue is raised, the Officers placed over the Excise Department may come to believe that they are bound to try for a proportionate increase of revenue in their respective districts, and may thus be led to display extra zeal in the raising of the receipts from Excise. Revenue may be increased by the raising of the price, but this means may not always succeed in decreasing drunkenness. I have learnt on inquiry that when the revenue of a particular shop is increased, the shopkeeper sells liquor cheaper than before (of course he sells adulterated liquor and thus secures a larger sale). There is here also a risk of increasing drunkenness.

"It is strange that no rate has been fixed by the Government for the sale of liquor by the shop-keepers. Shop-keepers are at liberty to sell liquor at any price which suits them. The Government should fix at least the minimum price of the liquor to be sold at the shops. Unless the Government lays down any such restriction, drunkenness is bound to increase and the morals of the people are liable to be injuriously affected. The Excise Bill is pending before the Bengal Council. I have proposed amendments to the following effect, *viz.*, 'no license for the sale of any intoxicating liquor or drug in any locality shall be granted against the wishes of the majority of the people of that locality, and that no intoxicable liquor or drug should be sold to women or to children below 16 years of age.' The Government is a guardian of the people; it has to promote their interest; it has to protect them from evil. There is no reason why it should allow women or young boys to be assailed by temptations. If a man who has attained the age of discretion contracts evil habits or falls into ways of debauchery, the Government or even his parents can hardly help it. But it is otherwise with women and young boys. In the latter case, the Government and the parents are to a great extent the controlling authorities. The Government should so far as practicable help the parents in keeping the children straight.

"Again, I do not see how any Government can reasonably oppose the principle of local option. A liquor shop should never be thrust upon a people that do not like it. It is gratifying to note here, that the Government has not unoften laid down the principle that such shops should not be opened in the vicinity of important public institutions. But that is not enough. I humbly submit that the Government should formally recognize the rule of local option and make it incumbent upon its Excise Officers to respect the rule. I have known numerous instances in which the opinion of the people of the locality concerned has been utterly disregarded and treated with a

contempt which it did not deserve. The Excise Committee also did not condemn the principle; indeed its report supports, to a certain extent, the proposal that due provision should be made in the Excise Act, for the ascertaining and respecting of public opinion.

"The Excise Committee recommends a general prohibition of the sale of liquor to children. The Committee, no doubt, hesitates to put a sudden stop to the sale to women; but the Committee is, I see, of opinion that the local authorities should have power to stop such a sale, in case of need. But if the sale is an evil, I do not understand why it should not be put a stop to by the Government; why should such a matter be left to the discretion of the local authorities? I believe the British Government will soon have in England a Licensing Act which would largely reduce the evils attendant upon the liquor traffic, and I hope our Government will not fail to grant us the boon of local option in the Bill which is yet pending before it.

"Before I pass on to another topic, I should like to speak a word or two about cigarette smoking. Cigarette smoking among schoolboys prevails to an alarming extent and does, it is held, immense harm to their health and studies. Is it possible to restrict its use among boys by legislation?

"*Assessed Taxes.*—There is an increase under this head also. The actual figure of 1906-1907 in the Provincial share was Rs. 24,33,631, and the revised Budget estimate for 1907-1908 was Rs. 25,25,000, and the present Budget estimate is Rs. 26,25,000. Of course, this figure represents half of the really estimated income under this head.

"I think in these days of scarcity, this figure in the budget is alarming. If the estimate is kept at such a high figure, every officer in charge would deem it necessary for him to increase the tax to its utmost limits. The result may be that the people who expected reductions on account of any falling off in their incomes would find their prayers unheeded, or that those who did not deserve to be assessed would be saddled with the burden. It cannot be gainsaid that, India, during the days of scarcity, the income of the people is considerablyre induced; no increase in the Income-tax should be expected. In the preparation of the Budget, I humbly think the actuals of the last year should be our guide.

"*Education*—It cannot be doubted that all the Provinces are equally entitled to the support and sympathy of the Government. The Government is *ma bap* to all of them. But just as the parents devote more attention to their infant children than to those that are grown up and are capable of carving out their career, the Government is bound to lend greater help to the weak and the infirm in their faltering steps on the path of education. Similarly, the more advanced provinces are morally bound to help their less advanced sister provinces. Bihar cannot be adequately grateful to the Government for the improvements that have been already made, and that are likely to be made in the immediate future in the Patna College and the Temple Medical School. Your Honour's Government has indeed done much for the well-being of these two important Educational Institutions in that Province. But Bihar badly needs and richly deserves some encouragement at the hands of the Government, in the matter of Technical Education. On the 25th January last, I suggested in one of my questions in the Council that the Bihar School of Engineering should be raised to the status of a college. The Government was pleased to reply as follows:—

'It is hoped that the Sibpur Engineering College will shortly be removed to Ranchi. This site will be in all respects as favourable for Bihari students as for students from the rest of Bengal. The Lieutenant-Governor, as at present advised, does not consider that there is room for a second Engineering College in this Province. It would not be possible to have another College equally efficient with the College now situated at Sibpur.'

"I agree to the opinion that it would not be possible at present to have another College equally efficient with that now situated at Sibpur; but I think it would not be easy for one College at Sibpur or Ranchi to accommodate all the students of Bihar and Bengal. And I am humbly of opinion that the present requirements of Bihar would be sufficiently met if the Bihar School of Engineering were raised to the status of a second class College, teaching up to the F. E. Standard of the Calcutta University. I have had discussions on

[Babu Gajadhar Prasad.]

the subject with some eminent Government Educational Experts. A scheme has been prepared in consultation with them. The scheme is as follows :—

Teachers and menial servants in the Bihar School of Engineering.		Teachers and menial servants required for a second grade College teaching up to F. E. standard.		Rooms in the school buildings.	Rooms required for a second grade College.	Present staff in the Workshop of the Bihar School of Engineering.		Staff required for the Workshop of a second grade College.	Expenses on contingency including stationery in the school.	Expenses required on contingency including stationery for a 2nd grade College.	Miscellaneous expenses in the school.	Miscellaneous expenses for a 2nd grade College.
Designation.	Salary.	Designation.	Salary.			Designation.	Salary.	Designation.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs.		Rs.				Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		
Head Master	600	1. One additional teacher of Engineering subjects.	150—300	18	18	Workshop Superintendent	250	No additional staff required.	School 600	School 1,100	Nothing ...	Nothing.
Assistant Head Master ...	150					Storekeeper and Workshop assistant.	50		Workshop ... 6,000	Workshop ... 6,000		
Engineering Master ...	125	2. One additional teacher of Science.			No extra accommodation required.	Head Carpenter ...	35	Rupees 10,000 for additional machinery required.				
Drawing Master	125					Moulder	35					
Science Master	60	3. Present Science Master's post to be filled up by a better qualified and more highly paid man.	100—150 each.			Turner and Fitter ...	34					
Assistant Master	60					2nd Carpenter	30					
Ditto	50					Blacksmiths	27					
Ditto	45	No additional clerks or servants required.				Pattern Maker	30					
Head Clerk	50					Engine driver	18					
Second Clerk	17					Tool Jamadar	20					
Third Clerk	15					Coolies	12					
Chaprasi	6					Chaukidar	6					
Daftry	6					Water bearer	6					
Peon	6											
Durwan	7											
Laboratory bearer ...	7											
Mali	6											
Sweeper	6											
Do.	6											
Lamp bearer	6											
Wards servant	6											
Ditto	6											
Ditto	6											
Ditto	6											
Ditto	6											
Ditto	6											
Mali	6											
Do.	6											
Sweeper	6											
Do.	5											

[*Babu Gajadhar Prasad.*]

"It would appear that only two additional Professors and some additional expenditure in the workshop would be required, in case the school is raised to that standard; there would be in all probability a recurring charge of only about Rs. 6,000 a year and an initial outlay of Rs. 10,000, for the purchase of some machinery: the latter, of course, would be non-recurring.

"Then there is another important factor, *viz.*, the income from the fees and fines of the College. It is probable that the Government will not have to spend a very large sum of money for the maintenance of the College. It is expected that the income from F. E. class and the workshop will not be inconsiderable. We have got at present a splendid building, with a splendid hostel attached to it; and I respectfully submit we should try to widen the usefulness of the school. It is really a very fortunate circumstance that we can raise the status of the school at a cost of only Rs. 6,000 a year. The Government should not fail to avail itself of such an excellent opportunity. Only a little help from the Government will place the people of Bihar under a deep debt of gratitude. The fund which was spent on the construction of the building and the equipping of the Institution was raised by private subscription, on the occasion of His Majesty's visit to Patna. The chief donor was Nawab Syed Lutfali Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., of Patna. The Board of Visitors of the School spent its fund with the hope that they would have a College. If the Board, of which I have the honour to be a member, had known that there would only be a school, the Board perhaps would not have agreed to spend such a large sum of money on a building. A school would not require such a grand building. It is hoped that an institution, which is connected with the memory of His Majesty's visit to Patna, would receive from the Government a large measure of attention. It may not be out of place to remind Government that it has very recently abolished the Government Law Class at Patna, and has thus been relieved of a recurring charge entailed by the maintenance of a Law class. In these circumstances, the Government will, I fervently hope, invest a little more money in the Bihar School of Engineering.

"There is another first class College in Bihar, *i.e.*, the Bihar National College, which deserves special notice. It was founded by the late lamented the Hon'ble Babu Saligram Singh, and his brother the late Babu Bisseswar Singh; they were truly patriotic Biharees. The Institution was started with a view to give cheap high education to Bihar. It was not at all a mercenary business. It was never in want of accommodation or funds. But the new University Regulations made an uncommonly heavy demand upon its purse and put a strain upon its resources, consequently Government aid became a necessity. It has done much towards the imparting of cheap education to Biharees, and Bihar is indebted to the founders of the Institution. Bihar cannot be adequately thankful to Your Honour for the aid which has been granted to this Institution, and I hope the Government will not neglect this Institution if any further aid is needed.

"*Law and Justice.*—It is a well-known fact that some of the Criminal Courts in the Province hold their sittings till late hours in the evening. The causes are various: sometimes it is the pressure of business, sometimes it is a piece of indiscretion on the part of the presiding officer concerned; but I beg humbly to submit that these sittings cause a good deal of inconvenience to the litigants and their lawyers. There would be very little murmuring if it were settled that each of the Criminal Courts would hold its sittings at night. If the parties came prepared to be present at a night sitting, they would not feel the inconvenience much. But as matters stand, the whole thing rests on uncertainty, on the whims or the caprices or for the matter of that, on the common sense of the Officers concerned. If a Pleader or a Barrister, who goes to Court at 11 A.M., is made to work, without previous notice, till, say 9 P.M. or 10 P.M. at night, he cannot but feel very much inconvenienced. I frankly admit that there may be occasions on which late sittings may be necessitated by the circumstances. But the liberty given to the officer, of holding late sittings should, I submit, be hedged in by proper safeguards.

"It may here be noted that the Calcutta High Court has in its note to rule 1, Chapter 1, Part I, Volume I, of the General Rules and Circulars laid

down the following for the guidance of the officers of the Civil Courts: "The daily sittings of each Court shall ordinarily extend from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. If the Government is of opinion that there is a greater pressure of business in the Criminal Courts than in the Civil Courts, or that the criminal business is generally more urgent than the civil, the Government, which is always the best protector of the public, can direct its officers ordinarily to hold their Courts from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., and record their reasons whenever they are compelled, by pressure of business or by any other cause, to depart from the rule. These Officers may also be asked to give previous notice to the parties, whenever they deem it necessary to hold late sittings.

"I considered it my duty to draw the attention of Your Honour's Government to the subject only because I see that, if only a little remedial measure be taken by Your Honour's Government, a fruitful source of misunderstanding, a cause of friction between the Bench and the Bar, between, I may go so far as to say, the rulers and the ruled, will be done away with. I know there have been several cases in which such late sittings have caused much unpleasantness and have disturbed not a little the harmonious relationship existing between the officers of the Government and the parties concerned. As there is no such order of the Government to guide them, many officers, well-meaning, intelligent and courteous have to do their business in a way which runs counter to the wishes of the public and causes them serious inconvenience. If in order to avoid night sittings the Government has to incur any additional expense the Government should not I submit, hesitate to do it.

"*Provincial Rates.*—Famine, Plague and Cholera reign supreme in Bihar; and Sanitation cannot be neglected with impunity. In the first place, it is, I humbly think, necessary for the Government, as well as for the people, to devote some attention to the Sanitation of Villages. The villages are, generally speaking, in an insanitary condition. It is no doubt one of the duties of the District Boards and the Local Boards to look after the Sanitation of the Rural Areas. But there are two things necessary to the performance of that duty:—

(i) Distinct and clear direction of the Government as to the proportion of the income of the Board which should be spent on Sanitation.

(ii) Pecuniary aid from the Government to the District Boards for the purpose of carrying out Sanitary Schemes.

"The Sadar Local Board of Patna introduced, some time ago, a system of Village Sanitation. The system proved successful and was approved by the Government and noticed in its Resolution, reviewing the report on the Working of the District Boards of Bengal, 1900-1901, in the following terms: 'The Patna and Dinajpore Local Boards inaugurated a regular system for cleansing villages and rural towns, which mainly consisted of the removal of filth and rank vegetation, the filling up of ditches, and works of a like nature. The example is one which other Local Boards would do well to follow, not only as a remedy when plague or other epidemics are rife, but as a help against their occurrence.' The Government desired the other Local Boards of the Province to follow the example thus set to them. But I find from experience, gained as the Chairman of the Patna Sadar Local Board, that the Sanitary Schemes cannot be properly completed and carried out for want of funds. The village population is as much entitled to the help and sympathy of the Government as the city population. If the District Boards, and the Local Boards that are under them, spent a fixed proportion of their revenues and if they received some substantial help from our benign Government, the fate of the village people would be appreciably bettered and their best interests considerably advanced.

"*Miscellaneous.*—I thank the Government for its allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 to Puri, of Rs. 77,000 to Gaya and of Rs. 75,000 to Monghyr, for their water-works. In this connection, I cannot help reminding the Government that something must be done for the Patna Water-works. When His Excellency, Lord Elgin, visited Patna, His Excellency remarked that Water-works and Drainage were twin sisters, and that where Drainage had been already constructed, Water-

works must be had. If the pucka drainage had not been made, the kutcha drains would have absorbed all filthy matters; but pucka drains cannot so absorb them and the result is bad smell and the poisoning of the atmosphere; and thus Water-works have become more urgent on account of the existence of the pucka drains. When I asked a question in the Bengal Council meeting of the 8th February last on this subject, the Government was pleased to state:—

'The charges for projects of local Water-supply should ordinarily be met from local resources. The Government cannot be expected to do more than make contribution from the general revenues to supplement local subscription.

'The most recent estimate for a scheme of Water-supply for the City of Patna, made in the year 1900 by the Sanitary Engineer, amounted to about 20 lakhs of rupees, and the annual maintenance charges were estimated at Rs. 40,000. It is out of the question that the Government should make a grant of the whole cost. Moreover, the Lieutenant-Governor is advised that the Municipality is not in a position to meet even the maintenance charges of such a scheme.'

"I think the answer was given under a misapprehension, that Patna Water-works could not be had for less than Rs. 20 lakhs; but I have got a complete report on the subject jointly prepared by Mr. Ross, the then City Magistrate, and Mr. Cumming, the then Chairman of the Patna Municipality. It shows that the Water-works can be had at a much lower cost than Rs. 20 lakhs; there are several estimates, *viz.*, 20 lakhs, 15 lakhs, 13 lakhs, the lowest being Rs. 7,31,223. The question naturally arises, how can even this amount of 7 lakhs be raised? In answer to this, I humbly submit that in Bihar, rather in Patna Division, there are many wealthy and liberal Raj estates that could very easily subscribe at least one lakh each for the purpose of Water-works at Patna; but, except Darbhanga, all the big Raj estates, *i.e.*, Bettiah, Hatwa and Dumraon, besides other big estates like Nurhan, &c., are under the Court of Wards. I think the Court of Wards can fairly sanction a donation of Rs. 1,00,000 from each of the three Raj estates, and one lakh from the other comparatively minor estates under the Court of Wards. The Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, who gave Rs. 50,000 to the Patna Municipality some time before the birth of the Maharaj Kumar, will, with his usual generosity, surely give us a large donation. We have already Rs. 1,00,000 at our disposal; the balance may easily be contributed by the Government.

"It would appear from the above that the proposal for the Water-works at Patna is not quite unreasonable, and the question need not be altogether brushed aside. Your Honour's Government will always be gratefully remembered in connection with this boon.

"Your Honour's Government has, I am glad to be able to say, done not a little for the sanitary improvements of the town of Patna, and I trust this will be the finishing touch. I hope the Hon'ble Mr. Greer, the late Commissioner of Patna, who knows Patna and Patna Division very well, will bear me out and support me in this matter. The proposal for the Water-works at Patna may be considered selfish by some critics; but it is not really so. Patna is the chief town of Bihar and is a seat of the Government. The Province and the Government are interested in its sanitary improvements, and I hope Your Honour's Government will not fail to do as much as it is possible to do in this direction."

The Hon'ble MAHARAJ-ADHIRAJ BAHADUR OF BURDWAN said:—"Your Honour—Though, unfortunately, owing to partial failure of crops in certain districts of Bengal as well as to the heavy expenditures, the Budget before us is not one with a big surplus, yet my hon'ble colleague, the Financial Secretary, is to be congratulated for the excellent way in which he has framed his Budget and has distributed the amounts to the heads under which there are pressing needs.

"I thank Your Honour for allotting a lac of rupees for housing the Officials at Burdwan. This has been a crying need, and I hope that, if a lakh be found insufficient, Your Honour's Government will enhance the contribution, as proper residential quarters for Government Officials are essential everywhere, especially in places which are unfortunately not free from Malaria.

[*Maharaj-Adhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan.*]

"Talking of Malaria, Sir, I would have liked much to have expressed my opinion on the present wants of sanitation in the villages, not to speak of the drinking-water problem; but, as the Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill is, I understand, now under the consideration of the Imperial Government, and as in it the necessary formations of Sanitary Boards have been introduced, I refrain from remarking until the Bill comes up for discussion in this Council.

"There is one point, Sir, on which I wish to draw your attention, and which has an immediate bearing on the Famine problem in the country, namely, the question of proper preservation of pasture-lands in Bengal. I am not aware, Sir, if there is any special enactment to protect these very necessary lands from being maltreated; but if there is no such protective measure it ought, in my humble opinion, to receive the attention of Government. There are many zemindars who take care of the pasture-lands and see that enough grazings for cattle exist in their zemindaries, but there are several, mostly petty zemindars, who show an extraordinary apathy towards this most important subject. I hope, Sir, that some necessary legislation towards the protection of such pasturage will be forthcoming before very long.

"Under no Lieutenant-Governor has Bengal received such encouragement and help in the way of hospitals, dispensaries and other medical and sanitary institutions as she has been lucky enough to get during Your Honour's *régime*, and for which we, the inhabitants of and settlers in Bengal, cannot be sufficiently thankful to you, Sir.

"Though no provision has been made in this Budget for helping us to go on with our scheme of the Central Hospital at Burdwan, I trust the year will be financially a good one, and that from the surplus Your Honour will be able to contribute something towards this much-needed hospital by a supplementary grant.

"I was much struck with the Zenana Private Patients' Wards that were not so very long ago opened by Her Excellency Lady Minto at the Lady Dufferin Hospital, and I hope, Sir, that the people of this Province will appreciate the kind thought that prompted you and Lady Fraser to start these Cottage Wards for the women of this Province, and that a time will soon come when the Government will be hampered with requests to build more such Cottage Wards and which, I am sure, with private munificence and the usual liberality of Government, will, when the needed time comes, enable them to build more such useful wards for *purdah* ladies.

"Encouraged by the kind interest that Your Honour takes in things medical, I venture to lay before you a proposal which I hope, Sir, will receive the consideration that it may deserve at the hands of Your Honour's Government. Sir, as you are well aware the only Sanitarium that exists at present for the exclusive use of the Natives of Bengal is the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium up at Darjeeling. This institution has served the purpose for which it was started, and during the *Puja* vacation and in the cold weather the place is often crowded with visitors and men in indifferent health who go up to the hills for a change.

"But, Sir, this institution is only resorted to by the well-to-do Bengalis and Indians. The poor middle class is still without a home or sanitarium in Bengal. It is this class, Sir, that needs such an institution badly; it is this class, Sir, that wants a good sanitarium and a healthy place with family quarters, where the not-over-well-to-do middle class folk could go to with their sickly wives and children to get a change and to get rid of the many diseases that they are susceptible to, owing to want of proper clothing, food and sanitation. This class is mostly made up of the clerical community who work as clerks in Government offices, railways, big mercantile firms and in the offices of private individuals, and among whom the majority cannot aspire to be *Burra Baboos;* but who, nevertheless, in many cases are sons of respectable middle class men and who, though they have to borrow in secret, for the sake of living, would rather die than live to be humiliated by their secret woes being made public. The scheme, I admit, is a costly one, but it is worth considering. Just let us for a moment imagine what a blessing it would be if we were able to alleviate the mental and physical sufferings of the

[*Maharaj-Adhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

members of this well-deserving class by being able to give them a sanitarium to go to, where at a moderate cost they could give themselves and their families the much needed change that they require. "The institution, if founded, should be run on such lines so as to make it possible for such men to be able to just afford to go and stay in such a place. The scheme wants working out, and if Your Honour's Government takes up the matter, I am ready to place my humble services at their disposal. Such an institution should be located in a place like the Pareshnath Hills, where I believe the zemindar of these hills intends leasing out lands for building sites, and, if this be so, the first help that the Government could give the scheme would be to procure a good large plot of land at a low rent and in a high and healthy locality for this proposed sanitarium. Failing this place, Ranchi or places like Simultala, Madhupur on the East Indian Railway line would, I should say, be equally suitable. This is a point which can only be decided, of course, if the scheme is taken up. If the Government favours this scheme and promises to contribute, if not a rupee for every rupee raised by public subscription, even eight annas for every such public rupee, I am willing to put my shoulders to the scheme, and, if the Government gives me the above assurance about its share of contribution, I am ready to contribute a lac of rupees, as my humble donation, towards this unselfish scheme for a truly charitable object.

"Sir, your *régime* is drawing to a close and though I am glad to think, God willing, we shall have you to rule over us for some months yet, yet this is the last Budget meeting that we shall have the pleasure of seeing you presiding over in this Council; and as this is the only opportunity I could have had to publicly express the gratitude of my humble self and the community that I belong to, I beg to say, Sir, that the kindness, the consideration and the sympathy that you have shown to us Noblemen of Bengal as a community, not to speak of your great friendliness towards us individually, is one that we can never forget; and I venture to assure Your Honour, on my own behalf as well as on behalf of many of my brother zemindars who have often spoken to me in most appreciative terms about Your Honour's kindness and unfailing courtesy, that we cannot be too grateful to you, Sir, and that we shall always look upon you as one who, as a ruler, tried to do what he thought best and kindest, and who, as a man, was a true and genuine friend to those that had the good fortune to gain his confidence and friendship."

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, said:—"Before I address myself to the salient features of the current year's Financial Statement, I deem it my duty to make grateful acknowledgments to Your Honour for having permitted some of the non-official Members to informally discuss the draft Budget with the Secretaries in the various departments of Government, before it took the final shape in which it was submitted to the Government of India for sanction. Much larger facilities had been given to some of the non-official Members this year than in the year before, when Your Honour for the first time granted this privilege by way of experiment. Since the rules for the annual discussion of the Financial Statement restrict the right of the Members to merely expressing pious wishes, it is indeed gracious on Your Honour's part to seek the informal co-operation of the non-official Members in the final preparation of the Budget. I flatter myself with the hope that Your Honour has no reasons to be disappointed at the result; and that in future it will be an unwritten rule of this Council to ascertain and consider the views of all the non-official Members, when the Budget is in course of preparation. A Conference over the draft Budget is bound to be futile, so far as the non-official Members are concerned, unless advance copies of the draft budget are placed in the hands of the non-official members at least a couple of days before the meeting.

"The gradually waving closing balance since 1903-04 has, in the financial year just expired, reached the point quite close to the obligatory minimum. While on the one hand, this has operated as a serious handicap against the framing of a prosperous Budget in the year which has just set in; on the other hand the necessity to allot money for coping with the prevailing scarcity,

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

the Division of Orissa, the tract which of all parts of Bengal succumbs easily to the inroad of Famine, coupled with the charge for Grain Compensation Allowance—and what is that but famine relief expressed in less sensational vocabulary—has prevented the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary from making more liberal provisions for many useful purposes and projects which are required for a progressive administration. It is a matter for congratulation that in spite of the heavy demands on the Imperial Exchequer owing to the widespread famine in the United Provinces and in other tracts, the Government of India have made special assignments of a net total of Rs. 22,47,000.

"The forcible appeal which Your Honour made at the last Budget Meeting of the Imperial Council has, I hope, convinced the Government of India that the charges for Grain Compensation Allowance should be regarded as part of the famine charges, and as such should be provided out of the Imperial revenue. I take this opportunity of urging before Your Honour that the local bodies and the municipalities should be relieved of the burden of contributing any portion of the direct expenditure, to combat famine, which come under the head of 'Famine Relief'; as also the indirect expenditure in the shape of Grain Compensation Allowance. In the revised Budget for local bodies, for the year 1907-08, the expenditure for Famine Relief has been estimated to be one lac and thirty-two thousand, and Rs. 24,000 has been put down as the famine-relief expense for the current year. The local bodies and the municipalities have been relieved of the payment of fees to Government for Banking and Audit. This has doubtless increased to a slight extent their capacity to spend more largely on Sanitation.

"*Fuller information required in the Financial Statement.*—I thank the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary for the lucid exposition of the budget which has helped us in a great measure to thread the maze of figures, which must be an inseparable feature of all budgets. But still, a fuller and more specific information is needed to explain for what specific purposes the grants for Civil Works in charge of the Civil Officers and of the Public Works Department and for the larger items under the several non-recurring charges, will be spent. The present Financial Statement, like those that have preceded it, omits to furnish any clue by which the non-official Members and the outside public can find out, to what extent, allotments made for useful public purposes in a year have not been wholly or partially utilized in the year; together with such explanations as would be deemed necessary, showing particularly how far the unexecuted portion of the works is covered by re-grants in the succeeding year. I venture to think that Your Honour will be pleased to consider the desirability of embodying this useful information in future Financial Statements. Public Works should be fairly representative of the principal heads of administration, such as Education, Police, Medical and Courts of Law. Out of the expenditure of fifty lacs fifty-four thousand rupees for principal works in progress, specially stated in the first part of the general review of the Budget Estimate of the year, the insignificant proportion of one lac and seventy thousand represents works on Educational buildings. I shall dwell on the expenditure on Education later on. A comparatively large proportion of expenditure represent works for the more convenient accomodation of police Force in Calcutta and Howrah.

"*Investment of the special grant of fifty lacs for the Calcutta Improvement Scheme.*—Since 1903-04, the year in which the Government of India made a special grant of fifty lacs of rupees for the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, which, as the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary said: 'is of the nature of a trust and cannot be utilized for any other purpose,' this large sum of money has been idly swelling the closing balances year after year. From replies evoked by the impatient queries in the Imperial Council at its last Budget Meeting, it seems to me to be certain that quite two years more must elapse before the scheme will be ripe for practical operation, or arrive at that stage when the actual expenditure of this money will be required. The public have grown weary of waiting, and I doubt not Your Honour will hear a good deal about it from my hon'ble friend, Babu Radha Churn Pal, who has an

which is keen in the non-permanently settled zone of this Province, I mean undoubted right to be heard on matters pertaining to Calcutta. I have been unable to guess why the practical advice of Mr. Bertram, as regards investment of surplus monies at the credit of Government, has not been followed in the case of this special grant. In the present year of stress, the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary will, I trust, be in a better mood to appreciate the wisdom of Mr. Bertram's counsels, who, as an object-lesson of prudent thrift, pointed to the swelling lacs derived from the investment of the Victoria Memorial Fund. I commend this to Your Honour's careful consideration.

"*Excise and Income-tax.*—The receipt side of the budget anticipates the normal growth of revenue under all heads, the prevailing scarcity notwithstanding. The progessive increases under Excise and Income-tax, specially in a year when we are under dark shadows of famine, are not complacently viewed by the public. Times out of number the progressive growths of these heads have been explained, and at times explained away. If the amount of Excise revenue is a true index of the degree of intemperance which prevails in a Province, then comparing our Excise revenue with that of Madras and Bombay as also of other Provinces, Bengal cannot certainly be found guilty of excessive insobriety. I venture to hope that the administration of the Excise Department will not lead to an adverse verdict.

"*Receipts under Registration.*—I am afraid, Sir, the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary has been too sanguine as regards receipts under 'Registration,' for he calculates a nominal increase over an abnormally high figure of the revised estimate which, as explained by him, was due to larger number of registrations on account of high price of food-grains. Coming to the expenditure side of the budget, I find that the Registration Department, after paying its expenses, earns a substantial profit. I, therefore, welcome the additional expenditure to strengthen the clerical staff of the Registration offices, which will ensure expedition in the works of that Department.

"*Large expenditure on the Re-organization of Police.*—Sir, I regret I cannot view, with unalloyed satisfaction, the large expenditure on the re-organization of the Police Department. It is simply natural that Your Honour, who presided over the Police Commission, should set about enthusiastically on the reformation of Police. The Government of India has made very liberal assignments for this purpose. The people are most anxious to see the Police reformed. The expenditure on this Department has been rising by leaps and bounds since 1902-03, but I regret to say that the improvement in the *morale* or in the dexterity in the detection of crime has not kept pace with the growth of expenditure. The Superintending and the Inspecting staff have been largely re-inforced, and so far the improvement has been quantitative; and I wish I could say that the improvement had been to an equal extent qualitative as well. To my humble apprehension, the real reform of the Police can be brought within the range of possibility, by the judicious operation of the scheme announced by the Hon'ble the Home Member of the Government of India of entirely separating the Judicial and Executive functions in the two Bengals. The fulfilment of a long-cherished and much-debated ideal, though tardy, will be welcomed most warmly. The bare outline of the scheme has been placed before the public, and I do not feel justified to take up the time of this Council at present by attempting a criticism on the details of the scheme.

"*Education.—Comparison with Madras and Bombay.*—The next question to which I wish to invite Your Honour's attention is, the inadequate provision made for the advancement of Education. After the powerful appeal made on behalf of Education by the representative of the Calcutta University, I do not feel called upon to dwell at length on that subject. I shall, however, address a few observations on Secondary and Primary Education. On the occasion of previous Budget debates, the expenditure on Education, in all its branches in European counties, had been exhibited to show in what backward condition our system of Education and Educational Institutions stand. To which the invariable reply has been that the disparity of conditions, financial and

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

otherwise, fails to furnish common basis for comparison. I shall steer clear of the furcoat logic and try to stimulate a healthy emulation, by comparing the state of Education in this Province with that of Bombay and Madras. Of Bombay and Madras, the latest official reports on Education I could get hold of were those of 1905-06. Of Bengal, I quote the figures from the latest Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education, 1906-07. There is considerable difference in the population of the three Provinces. Speaking in round figures, the population of Bombay is 18¼ millions; that of Madras is 38¼ millions, and that of Bengal is 50¾ millions, according to the Census of 1901. Bearing in mind this marked difference of population, I shall exhort Your Honour to consider the following tabular statements. A glance at these statements will show that Bengal stands at the bottom of the scale at a considerable distance from Bombay and Madras, and I may add from some other Provinces as well:—

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Province and year	Number of scholars.		Total Expenditure from—			
			Provincial Revenue and Local funds.		Private.	Fees.
				Rs	Rs.	Rs.
Bombay, 1905-06 ...	Male ...	504,863	Boys' schools	22,32,723	3,03,933	3,82,511
	Female	90,125	Girls' ,,	2,90,793	30 079	1,71,785
Madras, ,,	Male ...	5,96,216	Boys' ,,	11,21,892	4,96,818	5,94,790
	Female..	1,15,458	Girls' ,,	1,67,482	1,52,692	13,406
Bengal, 1906-07 ...	Male ...	9,54,027	Boys' ,,	8,92,190	3,35,640	13,48,114
	Female ..	73,360	Girls' ,,	1,79,582	1,29,616	21,965

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bombay, 1905-06 ...	Male ...	50,789	...	5,03,279	4,61,486	10,23,923
	Female...	6,028				
Madras, ,, ...	Male ...	91,706	...	5,20,106	5,68,362	13,76,719
	Female...	25,015				
Bengal, 1906-07 ...	Male ...	1,50,275	...	8,43,069	7,46,445	17,61,298
	Female...	6,683				

"I think I can profitably quote one passage from the famous Resolution of 1904 of the Government of India, in which the Educational Policy in India has been fully discussed.

'On the general view of the question, the Government of India cannot avoid the conclusion that Primary Education has hitherto received insufficient attention and an inadequate share of public funds. They consider that it possesses a strong claim upon the sympathy, both of the Supreme Government and of the Local Governments, and *should be made a leading charge upon Provincial Revenues.*'

"The italics are mine. Sir, I shall ask you to consider how far Your Honour's Government has succeeded in making the expenditure on Primary Education 'a leading charge' upon the Provincial Revenue; and if the provision for Secondary Education has been at all adequate. In spite of the stress and strain caused by the inroads of famine and plague on Madras and Bombay, the public expenditure on Education in those Provinces has been on much more

liberal scale than what has been provided for Secondary and Primary Education in Bengal, which is comparatively free from the ravages of famine and plague.

"In the special statement of additional recurring charges under Education, it is to be regretfully noted that out of an additional recurring expenditure of two lacs and thirty-one thousand rupees, one lac and thirty-seven thousand is provided for increasing the inspecting staff and rupees fifty-five thousand for travelling allowance of additional officers, by whom I believe the members of the inspecting staff are referred to; and only rupees twenty-five thousand has been provided for strengthening the Government Colleges. No provision has been made for training up a better class of teachers for the schools, and surely enough better teachers are wanted before inspection.

"I regret to find that the last year's grant for construction of Guru-training schools had not been utilized. There has been a pronounced tendency to strengthen the Inspecting Agency for Primary Schools, which, I have no doubt, will serve a useful purpose; but before that, and I should say in the very forefront, the proper training of gurus and teachers and the multiplication of schools should find place. Sir, there is not much indication visible of the development of the commercial and industrial sides of the Primary Schools, for all that the bulk of the people must rest content with is, that kind of education which will help them to provide themselves with practical livelihood. What is wanted for the vast rural areas and rural population are rural schools, imparting education which will make them thriving agriculturists and artizans.

"I am not unmindful of the fact that the Government of India is seriously considering the laudable but ambitious scheme of making Primary Education free. If the financial possibility of such a scheme is established, it will augur the brightest prospect for India. Sir, the Maharaja of Baroda has already shown the way. At the Industrial Conference at Calcutta in 1905 he said, with legitimate pride and satisfaction: 'The measure (free and compulsory education) was being worked with satisfactory results in one part of the State for a number of years. Emboldened by the success of this experiment, I have decided to make Primary Education compulsory throughout the State and absolutely free.'

"Technical Education moves forward wearily slow. For the last two years and-a-half, we have been hearing of the Central Weaving School in Serampore, to which the smaller schools in different parts of the Province will be co-ordinated. Beyond the acquisition of land for the purpose of the Central School, nothing more has been done. The provision of Rs. 35,000 for Technical Education by which, I presume, the recurring expenses of the Weaving School is to be met, is being repeated year after year to no purpose. In response to the newly-awakened interest in industrialism amongst the people of Bengal, this Province should have been studded with industrial schools to educate skilled labour for all our industries. As it has been decided to remove the Engineering College from Sibpur to Ranchi, it is absolutely necessary that a Technological Institute should be established in or near Calcutta, for teaching such subjects as dyeing, designing and calico-printing, which may be regarded as necessary auxiliaries to weaving and which should be taught in the Central Weaving School of Serampore; and tanning, glass-blowing, ordinary and artistic carpentry, smithery, pottery, brass and bell-metal manufacture and bamboo-weaving.

"Sir, the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary has said that an aggregate provision of more than six lacs have been made for Technical Education, in all its branches. I wish he had vouchsafed further information to explain what kind of Technical Education is to be furthered with this money, and whether it is a new item of expenditure or the annual normal expenditure.

"*Agriculture.*—The main industry of this country, and particularly in Bengal, is Agriculture. Out of a population of about $50\frac{3}{4}$ millions of souls in Bengal, the rural population amounts to quite $47\frac{1}{4}$ millions. In recent years, both the Government of India and the Provincial Government have commenced to make strenuous efforts for the promotion of Agriculture, by the establishment of a

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

College in Pusa for the study of the science of agriculture, and for researches and experiments on scientific lines. A number of experimental and demonstration farms have been established, one of which is, I believe, financed by my hon'ble friend, the Maharaj Adhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan.

"This year's budget provides for the building and equipments of an Agricultural College at Sabour. The Agricultural Department of the Engineering College of Sibpur will be merged in the new College. A new department devoted to Agriculture has been opened. Most laudable efforts are being made to encourage the opening of Co-operative Credit Societies which, according to the latest reports, are growing financially as well as numerically. And, lastly, six Travelling Inspectors have been appointed for the six divisions. All these show useful activities for the advancement of agriculture. But has practical fruits been achieved? Is not the agency for the diffusion of expert information, amongst the agricultural class, hopelessly insufficient and defective? I shall remind Your Honour of the well-known aphorism as to the excellence of statesmanship which can make two blades of grass grow where one grew before. If the improvement in the old traditional method of husbandry can bring about a larger outturn of food-grains, which would represent even an average increase of grains of the value of four annas per acre of land actually cropped an immense credit of reserve will be built against all scarcities, and it will constitute the best Famine Insurance Fund. In Bengal, the number of acres under food-grains, in 1905-06, was 36,522,400 acres. At the rate of four annas per acre, the figure works up to quite 90 lacs of rupees. To what an enormous extent will this improve the resisting power of the rural population in times of scarcity? Sir, he will be the greatest benefactor of this country who will help to place the husbandry of this country on a footing of equality with the agricultural countries of Europe.

"*Travelling Agricultural Instructors.*—Sir, the Pusa Agricultural College are issuing Scientific Tracts and Journals, and the Agricultural Department are issuing agricultural blue books and vernacular leaflets. But how can the valuable information contained therein be accessible to the mass of agriculturists? Most of them are illiterate and reside far out in the Mufassal, where even the vernacular leaflets never reach. Besides, it is absolutely necessary that the practical way of carrying out the instructions and suggestions, contained in the reports and leaflets, should be shown to the agriculturist. I am loath to believe that it is seriously contemplated that six Inspectors, located in the six divisions of this Province, will do this. At least a reasonable start can be made by employing in each district a Travelling Instructor, who should have a demonstration farm of 20 to 30 bighas in some central part of the district. He should go about from village to village. Agricultural Societies should be formed, composing of men of the stamp of the members of Union Committees and Panchayets, who may conduct their business in their own vernacular, and the Travelling Inspector might be the President of these rural societies. The members of these societies, as also other intelligent agriculturists, might be asked to see the operations of the demonstration farm of the district. These Associations may be federated in District Agricultural Associations, and District Associations federated in Divisional Agricultural Associations. I think I am not too sanguine in thinking that it is quite possible to find out 34 trained men—men who have passed out of the Agricultural Department of the Engineering College or out of Agricultural Schools in other places, who could be located in each of our 34 districts. I believe the pay of the Travelling Inspector will not exceed Rs. 100 a month. The expenditure of Rs. 3,400 a month for Travelling Inspectors, for all the districts, will be money most usefully employed—a hundredfold more useful than frittering away money over Agricultural Associations, such as we have at present; which, without meaning the slightest disrespect, are more ornamental than useful. These Travelling Inspectors, I am sure, Sir, will prove very valuable levers of agricultural progress.

"In this connection, I shall even, at the risk of being prolix, draw Your Honour's attention to a portion of the report of the Recess Committee, on a

department of Agriculture and Industries for Ireland in 1896. On page 74 of the printed report, the Commissioners say: 'We may here explain a feature of it (Educational system) which has a more direct reference to the promotion of agriculture than it has to education and which, as shown by the evidence, has been found one of the most effective means of improving the methods of the Agricultural class on the Continent. We refer to the system of Travelling Instructors which Ireland herself was one of the first counties to adopt.' And again: 'The functions of these experts would be (*a*) to conduct conferences and courses of lectures for the farming classes in their district; (*b*) to act as consulting advisers to the farmers of their district in the direct management of their holdings; (*c*) to superintend and assist in the agricultural course at the Primary Schools and (*d*) to direct the cultivation of Example Plots.' Each Travelling Instructor should be allotted a district, the size of which 'would be determined after experience by the new department.' These are conclusions arrived at after the most careful inquiry, and which in their practical application have achieved wonderful results in Ireland. I earnestly beseech Your Honour to conduct the operations of the Agricultural Department in channels, which will be of immediate sound results and which will help the agriculturists to grow two blades of corn where one or none grew before.

"The State aid to agriculture should be on a greatly more liberal scale than what the budget under discussion discloses. Advancement of agriculture will do more for this country than all other economic schemes of amelioration put together. One more word on this subject and I am done. In my humble opinion, the Head of the Agricultural Department ought to be a permanent official, with expert knowledge of the highest kind, and at the same time possessing the talent for organization.

"*Inspector of Septic Tanks in Factories.*—I find Rs. 31,900 is allotted for Inspector of Factories. I am not quite sure what is the exact nature of his function. All that I can say, and I feel I have a right to say as one whose residence is in close quarters of factories, is that it is absolutely necessary that a special expert in the practical working of septic tanks should be appointed to inspect the septic tanks attached to the many factories on either side of the river, between Budge-Budge and Chinsura on the one side and Garden Reach and Naihati on the other. Septic tanks are liable to get out of order when the effluents, which pass into the water, are not far removed from decomposed human excreta. The strictest watch should be kept over the septic tanks for the safety, health and comfort of the vast population that inhabit the riparian municipalities.

"*Grants for Water-supply in Bengal and Madras compared.*—Sir, the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary has said that 'we have provided liberal grants-in-aid towards local drainage and water-supply.' I am most deeply interested in one of the several filtered-water schemes referred to by the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary when he presented the Budget before the Council, and I am deeply grateful to Your Honour's Government for the hope of *liberal help* which has been held out. 'Liberal' is a term which, like many other things, admits of degrees of comparison. Again, Sir, I shall ask your attention to what is now being done in Madras—the so-called benighted Presidency. In the March number of the *Indian Public Health*, on page 313, the Editor says as follows:—

'The Government of Madras has decided to make a free grant of rupees three and-a-half lacs towards the cost of the Coimbatore Water-supply Scheme, and have offered the Municipality a sum of two lacs on the special condition of repayment in thirty years, with interest at 4 *per cent. per annum*. The scheme is estimated to cost, roughly, rupees five and-a-half lacs.'

"Again, the February number of the same journal informs us that, in view of the inability of the Municipality of Berhampore in the Madras Presidency to meet the entire cost of Water-works, which has been estimated to cost Rs. 3,03,920, the Madras Government will be prepared to make a free grant from Provincial Fund towards the cost of the scheme not exceeding Rs. 1,52,000, and will be prepared to apply to the Government of India for sanction for lending the balance of Rs. 1,51,920 to the Municipal Council

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur; Mr. Sutherland.*]

from the Provincial Loan and Advance Account, on the special condition of repayment in thirty years with interest at 4 *per cent. per annum*. I shall earnestly ask Your Honour to graduate the liberality of grants for Water-supply scheme on the Madras scale.

"*Special grant for Sanitation in Urban Areas and Water-supply in the Riparian Municipalities.*—We are grateful to the Government of India for providing a recurrent grant of four and-a-half lacs of rupees a year to Bengal, for to use the words of the Hon'ble the Finance Member of India: 'expenditure on the improvement of the public health, with special reference to the prevention of plague and the sanitary improvement of the sanitary condition of urban areas.' I shall respectfully ask Your Honour to consider if, with the aid of the special grant, it would not be possible to finance the comprehensive scheme, prepared some years ago, for the supply of filtered water to all the riparian Municipalities, containing a large number of factories and septic tanks. If the cost of the initial outlay for the pumps, engines, filters and main pipes are borne by Government, I venture to think that the Municipalities acting in co-operation will, by the imposition of a reasonable Water-tax, be able to pay for the cost of maintenance of the main Water-works; as also pay the cost of distribution pipes within their respective areas. Sir, if a tax on Jute, which will largely be derived from the many jute factories, whose existence within these riparian Municipalities is a source of discomfort to and a menace to the health of the permanent citizens residing in them, is going to be utilized for the improvement of Calcutta, I confidently hope that Your Honour will regard it as a reasonable claim of these municipalities to look for a large share of the special grant to enable them to supply filtered water to the residents, including the numerous workers in the factories within their respective jurisdiction. I trust this question will receive Your Honour's sympathetic consideration.

"*Landlords' fees.*—Sir, the next question I respectfully crave Your Honour's attention to is the difficulties which the landlords labour under in withdrawing the large accumulation of landlords' fees now lying in deposit in Government Treasury. I had been in communication on this subject with Mr. Slacke, whose genial presence we so much miss to-day and who, I hope, will come back to this Council with renewed health. It is in contemplation that in each district lists of the unclaimed deposits lying severally to the credit of the landlords should be prepared, and copies of which should be available to the persons interested. As the time within which the deposits could be withdrawn is limited by law, I would respectfully ask Your Honour to pass necessary orders which will facilitate the withdrawal of the hitherto unclaimed deposits by the landlords.

"*Public Works Cess.*—In conclusion, allow me to assure you that the whole Province must be grateful to Your Honour for representing to the Government of India to set right the obvious injustice of applying the Public Works Cess to other than local purposes. It would be some satisfaction to the landlords and tenants if the contribution levied from them, in the shape of Cesses, should be devoted to purposes in which they are immediately interested. It will afford great consolation to the large body of Zamindars, who are not yet reconciled to the ingenious theory which seeks to make out that the imposition of the Cesses does not militate against the basal principles of the Permanent Settlement. I trust that in the next year the localization of the Public Works Cess will be an accomplished fact."

The Hon'ble MR. SUTHERLAND said:—"It has been the fashion in this Council, when we have a Prosperity Budget and a fat surplus, to congratulate the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary thereon. I have often wondered—however desirable such a surplus—if this state of things is a truer indication of prosperous development in a Province, than a Budget with a lean surplus like that which we have before us to-day.

"So long as our revenues are maintained I hold we may congratulate the Government and ourselves on the heavy expenditure entailed by a policy of progress and development, such as the last few years have shown. Of course,

[*Mr. Sutherland.*]

we shall ever ask for more; it is only human but so long as economy must for a time be the order of the day it is perhaps idle to make appeals for further expenditure.

"I take it in a Budget debate it is the duty of each non-official Member, according to his lights to suggest in what directions it may seem to him economies might be effected, and where money in the future could be well and profitably expended.

"Now, it is obviously easier and more pleasing for Hon'ble Members to trot out their pet schemes for improvements, than to show where money can be saved; but I propose to refer, in passing, to one or two items of possible economy.

"In the first place, I would mention the proposed Agricultural College at Sabaur, and in this matter I should perhaps make some personal explanation. We often hear criticisms of such and such a project, from persons having no sympathy with the particular object in view. In conjunction with others, I was instrumental in starting the farm for agricultural improvements at Dulsing Serai, in Bihar, some nine years ago. The late Sir John Woodburn and Sir Edward Law came to see the work we had inaugurated, under the able guidance of Mr. Bernard Coventry; and partly, perhaps, as a result of their visit, schemes were matured which finally developed into the great Institute at Pusa. Be this as it may, the site chosen for the Institute was a few miles away from our farm, and Mr. Bernard Coventry became its first Director.

"I am closely connected with agricultural undertakings, and have for years taken a deep interest in what science is doing to improve agricultural methods in India. I shall, therefore, I hope, not be misunderstood when I venture to question whether the expenditure, and recurring expenditure too, which the proposed College at Sabaur will entail, should be embarked on at once?

"At one time, I believe, Dehra Dun was thought to be a suitable site for the Agricultural Institute for all India; but wiser counsels prevailed and Pusa was selected, fortunately for Bengal.

"At Pusa, the Government Scientists are in the heart of a highly cultivated district, with so intelligent and go-a-head a body of men as the present Bihar Planters, scattered for miles around. In fact, the best possible medium, in the shape of the Planters, is to hand for the proper dissemination of scientific knowledge in a practical form to the raiyats, who after all, I venture to think, are the only people to whom it is worth teaching improved methods of agriculture.

"I doubt if at this stage a college to teach educated Indians the science of agriculture is really very practical, unless it is certain that the students will be drawn solely from the zamindar class; and even so, my experience, as far as it goes, is that the educated Indian in Bengal is often less interested in scientific agriculture than the European in India.

"With all deference, therefore, I cannot help thinking, Sir, that it is possible we are going or trying to go, just a little too fast.

"In view of the personal explanation which I have made, I hope that I shall not be misunderstood when I say, that although in theory the Sabaur project may be attractive, no harm would be done by allowing it to remain in abeyance for the present. We have already this splendid Institute at Pusa, with its unique advantages of position and with its large staff of scientific experts: and might we not wait a little and watch the results of its operation before embarking on this other scheme?

"I should like to say, with regard to the remarks which fell from the Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad, I certainly hope the Government have no intentions of creating an Industrial College in Bihar. In my humble opinion, the College at Ranchi should be ample to meet the present wants of the Province.

"There is another direction in which I think some money might well be saved or, rather, made for a particular object. I refer to the grant of Rs. 50,00,000 for the Calcutta Improvement Scheme. We may apparently

now rejoice that, like her other coy and backward sister the, Sara Bridge, the Calcutta Improvement Scheme is at last to see the light of day. I also ask, as the Hon'ble Mr. Larmour and others have done before me, why the 50 lakhs which is ear-marked for a specific purpose should not bear interest in the meantime?

"Surely, it should be a simple matter to place this money on fixed deposit with a Bank? I am quite aware that Government balances in the ordinary course cannot be so treated, but as I said this money is ear-marked and a thing apart from the ordinary balances of Government.

"Your Honour is so fully alive to the pressing need of opening up this vast and congested city, that it would be a mere waste of valuable time to dwell on this aspect of the subject; but I hope I shall be pardoned if I again draw attention to a matter I raised in this Council Chamber seven years ago, which is closely allied to any Calcutta Improvement Scheme. I then said:—

'The expansion of this city on sanitary lines is one of the problems which must be faced sooner or later, and, in my opinion, it is our business to look ahead and grapple with the problem sooner rather than later. Calcutta at present is like a person with only one lung, namely, the maidan, and we shall, I think, be conducing to her welfare and longevity if we provide her in accordance with Nature's precedent with a second lung, in the shape of a maidan towards Tollygunj. This can to-day be done comparatively cheaply by acquiring the land, which is at present available; while, if we delay, the natural expansion of the town may encroach on this free space to such an extent that the successful execution of such a scheme would entail an enormously greater financial outlay.'

"To this my friend Mr. Baker, the then Financial Secretary to the Government of Bengal, replied that he entirely agreed with me, the more so as if my scheme were taken up at once it would be comparatively inexpensive, and for that reason he smilingly referred me to the Corporation as the proper body to do it

"Now, Sir, I hold to-day, as I held seven years ago, that Calcutta, as the capital of the Indian Empire, has a claim for help not only from the Province but from India as a whole; and indeed this is now admitted. If conditions, such as prevail in England, existed here some wealthy citizen might come forward and give the city a park on its southern side (the direction in which the town is inevitably extending): but we, Europeans in India, both official and non-official, cannot alas, be described as wealthy, and failing some Indian nobleman or gentleman wishing to place the City of Palaces under an everlasting debt of gratitude and thereby perpetuating his memory for all time, we perforce look to Government, in the interests of posterity, to provide the second city of the British Empire with a second lung, ere it is too late. The urgency for action, before the opportunity slips by, is my only excuse for re-iterating this appeal.

"My predecessor, Mr. Bertram, asked for increased and better means of communication in the shape of roads in the mufassal. I should like to endorse what he said. Sometimes, when on a long dâk up-country I wish that Bengal enjoyed the splendid roads of Ceylon.

"No doubt in Lower Bengal, suitable road material is a difficulty and the wheels of the bullock cart are destructive; but it seems to me a reproach to the countrymen of General Wade and the late Mr. Macadam that after all these years our existing roads for the most part are so indifferent, while more new feeder roads to fresh lines of railway are not made.

"I began by saying I thought we should congratulate the Government on its expenditure of late years.

"I remember, Sir, in the days of a falling rupee, how little it was then possible for Government to do? From some of the criticisms that have fallen from Hon'ble Members and from what one occasionally reads in a section of the Press, one would almost suppose that the Government of Bengal was hardly capable of any good action for the public welfare. By all means criticise, but let us non-officials be fair. What are the facts?

"Large sums of money have in the last few years been spent on public works of great usefulness, more especially on the hospitals of Calcutta, which

are a living testimony to the benevolent rule we enjoy. Agriculture, improvements of waterways and fisheries of this Province have not been neglected; while grants have been given to help menials and men on low salaries, to cope with the present high prices of food-stuffs. But, beyond all this, liberal grants have been made for education, sanitary improvements and for the Police

"Now with regard to the Police, I should like to emphatically disassociate myself from the comments one hears in some quarters where we are told that a great deal too much money is being expended on the Police. I do not imagine the Police in India are perfect. Who does? But every thoughtful man, if he is acquainted with existing conditions in the mufassal, must know that the police force and the village chaukidars are almost the only machinery we have as a medium between the Government and the people. Surely it is of paramount importance to do what may be possible to improve that machinery. I do not suggest that an increase of a few rupees pay will necessarily make a dishonest man honest; but a great and much needed reform has begun, and I say we have no right to cry out because it costs money.

"In conclusion, Sir, while the financial horizon may be dimmed by a passing cloud, I desire to offer my congratulations to Your Honour's Government on the immense progress and development of this rich Province during the past few years."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—Sir,—On the occasion, of last year's Budget debate, we invited Your Honour's attention to the desirability of making the Financial Statement more lucid and comprehensible than it has hitherto been, so that its perusal may enable an ordinary reader to find out how far the projects of reform, provided in the preceding year's budget, have been carried out; and, if for any cause their progress has been arrested, the cause which led to such arrest, and also such other details as will make the position of the Government intelligible to the public. Your Honour was also pleased to observe that, in regard to future budgets, it would be a very good thing if the Head of each of the principal Departments would draw up, in time for the budget discussion, a brief statement showing its actual expenditure and the work that it has done during the past year and also what he proposes to do during the coming year. But we are disappointed to find, that the Financial Statement placed before us follows, like its predecessors, the same mystic outline in matters of detail, and one will in vain tax one's brain to find out from it whether all or any of the works, shown in the last year's statement as 'Civil Works in charge of Public Works Department' or 'Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers', have been carried out or even taken up. For instance, Rs. 75,000 was allotted in the budget of 1906-1907 for drainage in Puri Municipality, and a similar sum was provided in last year's budget and in the present budget; also Rs. 1,00,000 has been provided for sanitary improvement and water-supply in Puri Municipality. There is nothing in the budget to indicate whether the same provision is being carried over from year to year or the present year's allotment is a supplementary grant. May we hope that the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary or the Secretary of the Department concerned will favour us with a statement showing how far the works, provided in the last year's budget, have been carried out and, if any of them have been abandoned, the cause which led to such abandonment.

"Looking into the detailed remarks on the current year's budget, we find, that the receipts under the heads 'Stamps', 'Excise', 'Assessed Taxes' and 'Registration' show a steady increase, and that the actuals of the first ten or eleven months of last year have largely exceeded those of the corresponding period of the preceding year. If this had been due purely to what is called 'Normal Expansion' or 'Progressive Increase', it would certainly be regarded as a matter for congratulation, as the increase of revenue means ordinarily the increase of prosperity in the country. But, when we bear in mind that the cause of this increase is attributable to abnormal circumstances, such as the increase of registration fees being due to the increased number of registrations on account of high price of food-grains, we are led to associate such increase with dismal surroundings.

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

"*Excise.*—As regards Excise, we are assured that the Government deprecates an expansion of the Revenue, which is the direct result of increased consumption, and that the Excise policy of the Government has never been influenced by Revenue considerations. We are thankful to the Government for advocating such a noble and humane policy. But, at the same time, we find that year after year the Excise revenue is increasing by leaps and bounds, and we are told that such increase is manifesting itself in spite of all checks that the Government is putting on the growth of drunkenness in the country. The inference we are invited to draw is, that it is due to a sudden influx of wealth among the low class people addicted to drink. But, when we find that the outstills, at least a large number of them, are even in the present day located on tempting sites, and that in spite of our having cried hoarse over the question of their removal from such sites, the Government did not think it proper to do so, we become rather sceptical in our belief as to how far the Government policy, based on non-revenue considerations, has hitherto been given effect to. The history of past years shows a lamentable disregard of the avowed policy of the Government. But we must gratefully acknowledge the attempts recently made in the direction of abolishing the outstills and extending the Distillery System in accordance with the recommendation of the Excise Committee. But, if the carrying out of the reform recommended by the Excise Committee takes time, which it is bound to take, the Government, to be consistent with its policy, should take steps for the removal of the outstills from their existing sites which are admittedly objectionable.

"Last year, I drew the attention of the Government to the evils arising from excessive growth of drunkenness in Chota Nagpur, and I am thankful that, in the district of Manbhum, the Distillery System has already been introduced, and that in other districts in the Division, the same system, as I am told, will be gradually introduced; but may I ask whether, pending final abolition, any of the outstills in the Division have been removed from their present objectionable sites? To offer temptations to the low class people to drink, by placing the liquor-shops on the roads and places frequented by them, is a policy which cannot be too strongly deprecated, and the sooner this blot in the Excise Administration of the Province is removed, the better.

"*Dearness of Food-grains.*—On the expenditure side of the budget, the first and foremost item that calls for attention is the provision made for compensation for dearness of food-grains. Last year when we discussed the budget, we consoled ourselves with the hope that with a favourable monsoon and favourable harvest the strain, caused by dearness of food-grains, will disappear in the near future. We find, however, that our expectations have not only been not realised, but that we are in a worse situation than before. It would hardly serve any useful purpose to trace the causes which have brought about this chronic dearness of food-grains, but it may not be out of place to mention here that the extensive encroachment which jute cultivation is making on paddy-lands, even in such districts where it was formerly either unknown or at any rate very rare, is affecting in some measure the out-turn of paddy. Moreover, the steeping of jute-plants, in tanks and other water-reservoirs, is also increasing the insanitary condition of the locality. This evil is increasing, and, unless some remedy is devised to remove or at least to lessen it, the paddy-lands of some of the important districts in West Bengal will in no distant date be converted into lands for jute crops and malaria; and other diseases, which are already rampant in rural areas, will make greater havoc. The question is deserving of attention at the hands of the Government, and the District Officers should be impressed with its seriousness so that they may, in consultation with the local bodies, try to devise means to check this growing evil.

"We are immensely thankful to Your Honour's Government for the provision made in the budget for Grain Compensation Allowance to all menials and ministerial officers, drawing pay of Rs. 30 and less *per mensem*. In the present situation, no money can be spent on a more useful object, and it is gratifying to find that the noble example initiated by the Government has been

followed in many other offices and departments, which are not under the Government. But we had expected that the relief in this direction would reach this year to a larger number of officers and that the standard would be raised from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50, if possible. We are rather disappointed to find that the provision made this year, *viz.*, Rs. 8,50,000, is lower than in the preceding year which was Rs. 9,50,000. The high prices of grains, which have been prevailing for some years past, have more seriously affected the position of the middle class people of the country, who are dependent on small fixed salaries, than even the poorer classes, who have no social position to maintain; and the Government will be entitled to the unspeakable blessings of our countrymen, if it can alleviate to some extent the distress of those *Bhadralogs* of the country, whose birth and social position make it impossible for them to seek public charity. In making this prayer, we are thoroughly alive to the responsibility which we cast upon the Government; but we may be permitted to mention that the country can very well afford to put up with the curtailment of the too liberal provision which has been made under other heads, such as Police, and even under such heads as inspection charges on Education; and the scheme for housing of Officials and purchase of Duff's College for the Calcutta Police, which is estimated at two lacs, can very well be deferred, as they are not of such an urgent character as affording relief to the poor officers of the Government, who find it really difficult to have two meals a day. We earnestly pray that Your Honour may be pleased to take our prayer into due consideration.

"*Scheme for Improvement of Salaries of Ministerial Officers.*—This question, of affording relief to the low salaried ministerial officers, makes us inquisitive about the fate of the scheme known as 'Improvement of Salaries of Ministerial Officers,' which has been in contemplation for some years past and for which the provision made in the budget is being carried over from year to year. On several occasions, questions were asked in the Council as to when the scheme would be finally given effect to, and the reply we have invariably received is, that the scheme is under consideration. If the relief which the scheme proposes to afford to these poorly paid officers had reached them in this time of famine and scarcity, it would have been greatly appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. May we ask when this long-deferred scheme will be carried out?

"*Sanitation.*—The ill-fated question of Sanitation in rural areas has scarcely made any appreciable advance in spite of our repeated appeals to the Government on this subject. The reply we have hitherto received is, that the Government is prepared to help the people if the people will help themselves. We are bound to say that such a reply is not commensurate with the heavy responsibility which lies on the Government on a question of life and death. Certainly the people should co-operate with the Government, otherwise no permanent good can result; but it is for the Government to lead the way and to initiate a definite and workable scheme. We were told last year, that the Government may be able to conduct here and there experiments, on approved lines, as an inducement to the people to take the matter up for themselves. May we know how many experiments were made in rural areas during the year which has just closed? In view of the supreme importance of the matter, the duty of the Government should go further than merely making a fixed contribution to the District Board and telling the people to seek their remdy from that body. We may be permitted to suggest that a grant out of the Provincial Fund should be ear-marked for this purpose; the District Officers should be asked to take the matter up in right earnest, and if necessary to form a Special Committee consisting of local men to appeal to the public for subscriptions; and, if the people find that the District Officer is taking a keen interest in the matter, they will readily join hands with him to carry out the reform, and the scheme is bound to be fruitful of results. It is feared that, in many parts of the country, to suggest that jungle should be cut down round the villagers' houses, would cause a rising of the population. But we need have no fears on this point, as the cutting down of jungles or trees

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

to which the villagers attach value is not absolutely required for sanitary improvement; but what is really needed is, the clearing of rank vegetation and reclaiming of silted-up tanks, and we feel assured that the villagers will too readily assent to such acts.

"While we are earnestly appealing for sanitary improvements in rural areas, it is rather unfortunate to find that the grant for sanitary improvements made by the Supreme Government is reserved only for urban areas with special reference to the prevention of plague. But malaria and cholera are decimating the rural population of Bengal, and it is to be regretted that no special provision has been made for their prevention. 'The nation dwells in the cottage,' said John Bright, and the millions of Bengal live in their villages and their sanitation is a matter of the first importance and ought to receive prior consideration. Further, the urban areas can help themselves far more than the rural tracts.

"*Education.*—Coming to Education, we find that an expenditure of more than 50 lacs out of the Provincial Funds has been budgetted under this head. We are further told that numerous schemes for reform and improvement, that have been undertaken or are in contemplation, will call for an increasing expenditure, and that, out of the amount provided in the budget, Technical Education in all its branches will receive a liberal share—more than six lacs. We are immensely grateful to the Government for this increased appreciation of our educational needs. But we notice that the cost on Direction and Inspection is put down at more than 16 lacs, just one-third of the whole provision made under the head 'Education'. This seems to be quite out of proportion, and what I urged in this connection last year I feel bound to repeat this year. We admit that the grants made by the Government for Educational purposes have increased and that it is necessary that there should be an adequate directing and inspecting staff, but if a considerable portion of the provision is swallowed up by the inspecting staff, more important objects necessarily suffer.

"It is an undisputable fact that the efficiency of the Professorial Staff in our Government Colleges has been gradually deteriorating. We cannot reckon now-a-days, in that staff, any such name as may be compared with the distinguished names of Cowell and Lobb, Sutcliff and Woodrow, Croft and Tawney, Elliot and Booth. The cause of this deterioration is not far to seek. The prospects of the Professorial Staff are not inviting enough to attract distinguished graduates from England. Cannot the cost on Inspection and Direction be curtailed to some extent to raise the efficiency of the Professorial Staff which is most essential for the sound education of our youths? No expense will be grudged by the country in securing an efficient staff of Professors, whether European or Indian. The prospect of Indian Educational Officers is so limited that it does not induce the best graduates of our country to enter this department. We have in the present day only three Educationists in the superior grade, what is called the Indian Educational Service, and the rest, including a Chemist of European reputation like Doctor P. C. Roy, are relegated to the Provincial Service, with little prospect of promotion to the Superior grade. The posts of the Inspectors of Schools were hitherto given to several Indian Officers, but recently these Officers have all been made Additional Inspectors, and the Inspectorships are evidently reserved for Officers in the Indian Service. In answer to my question put in the Council on this subject, the Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild has been pleased to say, that it is not the intention of the Government to reserve these appointments exclusively for Europeans; but, it remains to be seen, how many of our countrymen will be considered eligible for these appointments.

"An examination of the detailed statement on Education, as given in page 20, Appendix B of the Financial Statement, shows that a sum of Rs. 35,000 has been provided as a lump provision for Technical Education, and we do not find any other provision in that Appendix which has a direct bearing on Technical Education. We shall be thankful to the Hon'ble Secretary, in charge of Education, if he will enlighten us on what other heads the provision of more than six lacs on Technical Education has been distributed.

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

"On Female Education, an expenditure of nearly Rs. 3,70,000 has been provided and out of this grant Rs. 54,000 has been allotted to Kurseong Female School, although Bethune College comes in for a share of Rs. 24,000 only. May we know the object for which this large grant has been made to the Kurseong School?

"*Police.*—A very large provision has been made under the head Police, and the present year's figure stands at Rs. 77,63,000, which is 26 lacs more than what it was four years ago. This increased provision is, we understand, needed to carry out the re-organized scheme recommended by the Police Commission. But, when we find that the expenditure on Police has been larger than on any other branch of the administration, Education included, and that even in a famine year such liberal provision has been made under this head, necessarily at the expense of other objects of State support, we stoop to inquire how far the results hitherto achieved by the re-organization scheme have justified this enormously large expenditure? Where acknowledgments are due, we make them ungrudgingly and sometimes too profusely.

"We find that the re-organization scheme has, to some extent, raised the status of the Police service and partially removed the odium which is attached to it. Now-a-days, we find in the grade of Sub-Inspectors several undergraduates and even some graduates, sons of respectable men who would not have thought of entering the service in former days; and, in the grade of Inspectors, some very good and worthy Officers, who would do credit to any other service. It is also gratifying to find that the re-organization scheme has attracted to this service some highly cultured young men of our country, scions of noble families, as Deputy Superintendents. We do not at the present day come across such types of Sub-Inspectors, whose ponies used to be fed on butter and cheese and who, in the touring season of the District Officer, used to ransack the district of its milching cows, fowls and eggs. But this improvement, achieved at such heavy cost, counts for nothing in the face of the corruption and oppression that still characterize the rank and file of the service. When we still find many a Sub-Inspector, on a pay of Rs. 50 or Rs. 60, living in a style which a Deputy Magistrate cannot afford to keep up, and whose advent in a village for the purpose of an inquiry upsets the whole population, and when we remember the treatment of our people by the Police on occasions when policemen are in evidence, and recently in connectio, with the Calcutta Police riots, we cannot say that our country's money which is being so lavishly spent on the improvement of this service, is all usefully spent. It may be said that real improvement is not the question of a day and that we should wait to see the result in times to come. May we live to see the day when such results may be achieved?

"In passing, let me call attention to the sum of Rs. 1,40,000 budgetted in 1908-09 for the Criminal Investigation Department. Before the re-organization scheme, there was no provision made under this head and singularly enough the charges are increasing year by year. In 1906-07, it was Rs 74,000, in 1907-08 it was Rs. 1,15,000 and in 1908-09 it is Rs. 1,40,000. May we inquire what useful work is being done by this Department, so as to justify this heavy and annually increasing expenditure?

"I may be permitted to take this opportunity to thank the Government for the great experiment of the separation of Judicial from Executive Functions in the administration of criminal justice. Your Honour has been invited to frame a scheme upon the outlines sketched out by the Hon'ble the Home Member. All Bengal will be looking forward with eager expectancy to the scheme which Your Honour's Government may formulate and upon which the future of this great experiment will largely depend. Public opinion has unequivocally expressed itself as to the lines which it should follow. The Judicial Magistrate should be placed entirely under the control of the High Court. It is not enough that the High Court should be freely consulted. Further, it is necessary that the cases instituted by the District Officers empowered as District Magistrates for the performance of the preventive functions of Chapter VIII to Chapter XII of the Code of Criminal Procedure should be tried not by them but by Judicial

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghose; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

Officers over whom they have no control. Let the initiation remain in their hands, but the Judicial Magistrates should be invested with the power of ultimate disposal.

"In conclusion, I beg to offer our congratulations to the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary for having made provisions, even in a Famine Budget, for several useful projects of reform which, we trust, will be carried out during the year."

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"It has been of late usual to congratulate the Financial Secretary on Prosperity Budgets. It is, however, not very difficult to make a good show when there are large surpluses. But when the Financial Secretary is able to frame a workable budget, with large expenditure on account of famine crippling the resources of the Government, he certainly deserves congratulations. The present budget is also an improvement on previous budgets in several particulars, which I shall describe later on.

"Before going into the discussion of the budget, I feel I shall be wanting in my duty if I do not express the gratitude of the Members of the Council for the opportunity allowed to them to consider the budget in two meetings before it was finally framed. If we had not our way in most things, it must also be said that the interests of the bodies we represent are conflicting and it is not easy to upset the arrangements of the departments of the Government, which are too strong even for Mr. Morley. On reading through the proceedings of the Council of some of Your Honour's predecessors, I found that the Members were often stopped in the course of their speeches on the budget, if they wandered into any discussion of general policy or administrative measures. Your Honour has repeatedly told us that once in the year, on the occasion of the Budget discussion, Members were at liberty to discuss questions of general policy and administrative measures. We have not got the rights of Members of Parliament to move any resolutions during the Budget discussion, affecting Government measures. But the right of criticism is also valuable. This right Your Honour has always allowed us in the fullest measure, and the country ought to be thankful to you for it. I am afraid all the coming political privileges of Local Councils, beyond the increase of their size, will not take us further than this right of discussion of the budget, the right of free criticism and the right of interpellation. Indeed, we have been told that the rules would in the future be made by the Government of India, by which the Members should be required to observe the rule of relevancy and stick to the figures of the budget. We may thus go back and lose our right to criticise the general policy of Government on this one occasion, because there will be a larger number of men who cannot be relied on to speak to the point. I trust Your Honour will, so far as this Council is concerned, kindly safeguard the rights now possessed by the Members.

"Now I shall proceed to the discussion of the Budget proper. The present budget is distinguished by the many works of great public utility for which it has made provision. The Water-works of Puri, Monghyr, Gaya, Serampore and Kurseong, when completed, will be permanent mementos of the beneficence of Your Honour's administration. I believe the arrangements for Water-works at Hooghly and Jessore are also nearing completion. I must also say here that I agree with the Hon'ble Member from Bihar in strongly urging upon Your Honour the desirability of having Water-works at Bankipore.

"I must also congratulate the Government for the grants for the drainage and sanitary improvements of Berhampore, Patna and Darjeeling; and for the grants for the clearance of silt in the Midnapur Canal, raising the Pattamundi Canal flood-bank, the Dhappa-Bamanghatta Canal and the Madaripore Bhil Channel. These are substantial works of great utility for which we must be thankful.

"In the present budget there is, for the first time, a statement of receipts and expenditure of District Boards and District Committees. It is an improvement and will be very useful in anticipation of the changes proposed

by Your Honour, by which the District Boards should have the proceeds of the Road and Public Works Cesses exclusively for the purposes for which they were originally imposed. I do hope Your Honour will be able to carry out the change, which will place the country under a great obligation to you.

"Another matter ought to be mentioned here. Your Honour's Government has repeatedly announced that in the Sibpur College, instruction in mechanical, electrical and mining engineering, as well as industrial chemistry, would be taught to a standard equal to the standard of the Technological Colleges of Europe. The grant in the present budget is only Rs. 35,000, which is the annual recurring grant by the Government of India, and which must go to the Serampore Weaving School, which we are surprised to find has not made much progress yet. There are also some grants for apparatus in the Sibpur College. The grants are quite insufficient for the purpose. I have, however, been told that, though the classes have been sanctioned, they will be opened next year. Mr. Heaton very kindly took me over last week to the Sibpur College, and I found that arrangements for starting the graduate classes in mechanical, electrical and mining engineering are very nearly complete, and those for the industrial chemistry classes were being completed when they were stopped. I thus find no reason why these classes will not be opened by Your Honour this year. The technological graduate classes of Sibpur and the weaving school at Serampore will, I think, be the greatest works of beneficence of the Government, next to the establishment of the Arts Colleges. I must also thank Your Honour for the great Agricultural College at Sabour, which will shortly be started and for which large grants have been made in this budget. The Hon'ble Mr. Sutherland suggested that the College might remain in abeyance. I am afraid he is not aware that the Agricultural Classes at Sibpur have been closed, because the College at Sabour is going to be opened. We are also grateful for the serious effort that is being made for the improvement of the Fisheries of the country, though it is too early to judge of the wisdom of the measures proposed to be taken.

"I have now to go to the disagreeable work of finding fault. We, Indian Members, often use strong language. Our words are so little heeded that the temptation to use strong words often becomes very great. Again, the condition of the people of the country is so miserable that, though I for one know that most of the English Administrators do their very best to ameliorate the condition of the people, I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that it is possible to make the country move very much faster than it has been doing. For our present stagnation, the Government is responsible. If the people of this country are not progressing, as the people of Japan and of the European countries, because of the inadequacy of the measures for their improvement undertaken by the Government, it must be said to have signally failed in its duty towards the people, whose welfare has been entrusted to it by Providence. The present Budget will amply prove my statement.

"Let us take Education first. The Financial Secretary has very kindly this year acceded to my request of showing the provisions for Primary and Female Education separately. When I asked for the statement I never thought it would show such startling results as disclosed in it. There are some Government primary schools which cost Rs. 31,500 and model *muktabs* Rs. 3,420. The rest of the primary schools are only helped by grants-in-aid. The sum of Rs. 1,89,708 is allotted for the maintenance of primary schools for the benefit of 50 millions of people. There may be something like two lakhs more spent for the same purpose by the District Boards according to my information, though the statement does not show it. I must say I could not believe my eyes when I saw the figures. Under Female Education, I find that for Muhammadan female education the sum of Rs. 1,200 is allotted, and grants-in-aid for the other schools amount to Rs. 1,96,000, a very large proportion of which goes to Brahmo and Christian schools To this may be added the cost of one or two colleges and high schools for non-hindu and non-muhammadan classes. To be told that the people do not show any eagerness to be taught and that the difficulties of starting a larger number of

primary schools for boys and girls are insurmountable, only proves that no serious attempt is being made to educate the people to any appreciable extent, much less to the extent to which it has been done during the last 30 years in Japan, which was before that time a barbarous country compared with Bengal. The last quinquennial report mentions it, as a very satisfactory fact, that in five years there has been an increase in the number of the pupils of the primary schools by 1,35,118. The fact only shows how the 50 millions of people, under the charge of the Government, are practically untouched.

"I find, again, that out of the total Provincial expenditure on Education of 50 lakhs, 7¼ lakhs is for direction and inspection. In 1902-03, for the whole of undivided Bengal, the entire expenditure under those heads was Rs. 3,28,000. The area of our Provinces has been reduced by a third and the expenditure has more than doubled. For Primary Education, again, out of a total expenditure of 9 lakhs, Rs. 2,01,800 are for inspection, Rs. 4,38,000 for training schools for teachers; and the expenditure on primary schools is only Rs. 2,19,208, excluding scholarships of the amount of Rs. 17,200. There is no reason to suppose that this proportion of 25 *per cent.* of the entire expenditure, which is now spent on the schools properly so called, can be raised within any appreciable time. I have repeatedly complained against it, but to no purpose. The fact remains that the people must go without education for one generation at least.

"There has been an extraordinary increase of expenditure on Colleges, which is out of all proportion to the means at our disposal and which will be greater every year. This is partly owing to schemes for new Colleges, but mainly owing to the new Universities Act; which was not wanted by the people and the unpopularity of which, the Hon'ble Member for the University has just now told us, is admitted, and which was conclusively shown by the establishment of the so-called National University and the national schools and by the small number of graduates who took part in the last election of Fellows, and which has according to many competent critics in no way improved education in this country, is a matter which is considered by many exponents of Indian public opinion as money not very well spent. But probably we do not quite understand our own interests. But even the money so spent is not much and more ought to be spent. But the education of the masses is absolutely neglected. The Government of India once gave us 10 lakhs for Primary Education, and we have been told that we would soon get free and universal education. What we have actually got is Rs. 2,19,208!

"The budget does not disclose that the Government is doing anything towards prevention of Malaria, Cholera and other diseases, which have made life miserable in the interior of the districts. I have already mentioned the great and beneficial work done for some of the important towns, by supplying them with water-works. But what has been done for the rural population? I asked for some grants for the supply of good drinking-water, but could not get them. From the statement supplied to me by the Government, it appears that about Rs. 97,000 were spent in the districts of Nadia, Murshidabad, Jessore and Khulna during the last five years, or about Rs. 4,500 every year in each of these large districts. We may take it practically that nothing has been spent on that head. As regards prevention of Malaria, no steps have yet been taken. For the last four years, the drainage of the Jessore district is under consideration. Once Rs. 75,000 was budgetted for it. It was taken out last year and does not appear this year.

"The project of the Ship Canal in 24-Parganas, so strongly pressed upon the Government by the Chambers of Commerce, is still in an embryonic condition. The departments take an unconscionably long time to come to a decision. Our river systems are deteriorating, and our Engineers tell us in despair nothing can be done. In other countries, Engineers would never have said that.

"The establishment of the Public Works Department, I complained last year, cost us Rs. 8,75,000 for a total expenditure of 65 lakhs and odd, though most of the work is done by Contractors. The expenditure, on establishment,

has this year been raised to 10 lakhs. The department may be entitled to this extraordinary expenditure on themselves. I would not grudge them even more, but let us have proper schemes for improving the sanitation of the districts, and those in shorter times; and once the schemes are ready, let them be carried out, so that we may not have to show, as I did last year, that expenditure sanctioned has been year after year sanctioned without being actually incurred.

"Excepting the Madaripur Bhil Route, I find all such items have this year been omitted. But that does not show that the works have been done; for, at least, in the Presidency Division, practically nothing has been done. That the people in the Mufassal are distressed and dying in hundreds of thousands, on account of malaria and other diseases, is admitted. In this state of things, it is necessary that we should see what we spend on medical aid to them I find that Rs. 76,000 is budgetted for mufassal hospitals and dispensaries, and another sum of Rs. 1,45,500 for grants to mufassal hospitals and dispensaries. Under the heading of 'grants to mufassal hospitals and dispensaries,' the actuals for 1906-1907 were Rs. 1,62,678. The revised estimate last year was Rs. 1,94,000, though the sanctioned amount was Rs. 1,25,200. This year, the amount budgetted is Rs. 1,45,000, and the note on the remarks column is 'increase for larger grants.' But, increase or no increase, the amount is miserably low for the work for which it is intended.

"I know that there is no medical help available in the Sunderbans and people die by thousands during the cholera season. There have been proposals for establishing one or two charitable dispensaries, but there is no money for them.

"Out of pity to us, the Government of India has made a grant this year of a sum of $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees for Sanitation, which has not yet been distributed. I trust some provision should be made out of this for the supply of drinking-water to the Mufassal, for the establishment of a larger number of charitable dispensaries and for the carrying out of a systematic scheme for the eradicating of malaria from this country. If the malaria continues, the people are sure to deteriorate and ultimately die out; as did some ancient peoples, as history tells us. No expenditure is too great for preventing this result. Indeed, all works requiring expenditure should give way to this primary need of preservation of the people.

"I must very sincerely thank the Government for the grant of Rs. 8,50,000, as compensation on account of the extraordinary rise in the price of food-stuffs. We have been confronted with an economic problem of a very serious character. Acute Councillors have traced it to coining more rupees than necessary and have supposed that it would hamper exports. Indian Publicists, on the contrary, say it is owing to large exports. Overcoining, if it affected prices, would affect prices generally and not of food-stuffs alone; nor is it true that exports have been less. But it is also not true that exports have been larger than in previous years, as has been shown by the Government in reply to questions put in this Council. These are therefore fanciful reasons, though good according to text-books. It is a well-known principle of political economy that there is a rise in wages and of the price of all manufactured articles, when there is a rise in the price of food-stuffs; but, in India, on account of foreign competition, the price of manufactured articles cannot rise on that ground, and corresponding proportionately higherer wages are impossible. There is thus a disturbance of normal conditions, intensified by the keener rivaley between India and other foreign countries, in recent years This will continue until India can hold her own against foreign competition. However that may be, we do expect that our financial and economic experts will soon find out the true cause and its remedy. Till that is done, the non-cultivating classes will greatly suffer. It seems to me that the high prices have come to stay. The high prices of jute, produced on a bigha of land, cannot but make the cultivator either give up the cultivation of paddy or demand a proportionately high price for the paddy produced on an equal quantity of land. The cultivators, who are the majority of the population, have profited by the high prices of

the produce of their fields. But the large non-cultivating population are suffering greatly. The grain compensations, which I hope will be continued as long as the high prices continue, may afford some relief to the poorly-paid Government employés.

"But for the other workmen and labourers, there is no hope unless there is a rise in wages. That can only be obtained when there are more industries and more factories, and more demand for labour. To the small landlords, the Government may give some relief by affording facilities for enhancement of rent on account of rise in prices; and I hope the Government will be pleased to do that if it finds that the high prices continue for good. But that is a small matter. The great problem before the Government of this country is, how to develop its industries. The land is not sufficient to support the population and my poor countrymen go to America and South Africa for higher wages, and are there accorded the treatment of Kaffirs and Hottentots and turned out as undesirable aliens. There was a time when this country was rich in industries. Machinery, large capital, and the encouragement by all means, fair and foul, by foreign countries of their own industries, have destroyed our industries. It is the bounden duty of the Government to take every possible measure by which industries may be revived, factories established and higher wages received by labourers, and employment provided for the middle class—*bhadra-logue* class. It is very good to encourage and to give relief to the lower classes and Muhammadans by giving them employments—even high employments; for it must be said they are the people. But any deterioration of the races of Aryan origin in India is a matter of serious concern, for what is India without them? Then, again, the Census figures prove that the Hindu population of these Provinces (lower classes and higher classes) are not increasing in the same proportion as the Muhammadans. Is this owing to the fact that among Hindus the proportion of the non-cultivating classes is larger than among Muhammadans? These are high problems with which we are not at present concerned, but to them no responsible Government should shut its eyes.

"The immediate question is the development of industries which will, of some extent, alleviate the present distress. Much, very much can be done. Have not strong and wise Administrators converted Germany and Japan from purely agricultural countries to great manufacturing countries? Our Government is doing practically nothing. Most of its requisites are purchased from foreign countries. The budget shows that stationery purchased in the country is worth Rs. 37,000, and stationery obtained from foreign countries is worth Rs. 6,68,000. The Government can very easily get its stationery made in this country. Many private societies and firms will, I am sure, undertake the work if the Government helps.

"Now, I would draw your attention to the large amount of fines realised as shown in the budget. Of this, a large amount is for fines for illicit manufacture of salt. I would request that the amount be separately shown in the budget. The reduction of the salt duties has been a boon. But it is not much appreciated by the poor people. The one great grievance which the people, in the neighbourhood of the sea-coasts of Bengal and Orissa, have against the Government is the oppressive enforcement of the Salt Laws and the fines and harassments in consequence. The reduction of the salt duties gives them no relief. These people would very much like to pay an additional Cess, if they are allowed to manufacture salt for their own consumption from the water at their doors. I wish the Government could devise some means to alleviate the hardships arising out of the Salt Acts, though the Acts are Acts of the Government of India.

"We miss in the budget a detailed account of the expenditure on Famine Relief which, on the face of it, does not seem to be much, and a statement showing that the measures taken for the purpose, in Orissa and the parts of Bengal affected by famine and distress, are adequate. Basing the budget on the model of old budgets and omitting detailed accounts under heading, only 33 this year cannot be commended.

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

"Your Honour, I am aware that the means at your disposal are quite insufficient for the needs of the country. The question of questions is how to find means, without oppressing the people? A tax on Jute will, I believe, not be oppressive. We have got the monopoly of jute and we may easily take a little more price from foreign manufacturers, who cannot do without jute. The proceeds of this tax may be divided, half for Education and half for Sanitation. But, these are questions to be solved with much greater thought than can be given on this occasion.

"What we are directly concerned with in this connection is, retrenchment. Retrenchment, in every direction, is indispensable if we wish any good work to be done. The charges of administration, General and under Land-revenue, I find are Rs. 56,61,000; while our income is 5 crores. The actuals for 1905-06, for undivided Bengal, were 60 lakhs on the same head. By the Partition, the expenditure should have certainly been reduced by more than 3½ lakhs. But any way, the charges of administration, which do not include expenditure on police and justice, stamps, excise, etc., are excessive. But how to reduce them? The Statutory Civil Service was established to reduce the cost of administration. But it has been abolished for reasons which I have not yet been able to understand. And we have further got Compensation Allowances to high-paid officers. Our administration expenses are every day increasing.

"The expenditure for Police, for undivided Bengal, in 1905-06, was 68 lakhs and odd. This year, we are budgetting Rs. 77,63,000 for divided Bengal. Why should there be this extraordinary increase in Police expenditure? Has there been an increase of crimes in peaceful Bengal? No. Certainly there have been rows by boys and boyish men, who I am sorry to find are taken seriously by the Government and by the newspapers, which flourish by sensational news and which find it very hard to make two ends meet in peaceful and uneventful Bengal. But this will very soon pass away, leaving Bengal the most peaceful and crimeless country in the world. Why this great burden, which cripples the resources of the Government, to undertake works of beneficence? Notwithstanding the encomiums bestowed on the police, the people are, it must be said, not in much love with the police, even the improved police, and if they saw less of policemen than at present they would bless the Government. The necessity of suppressing a Hindu-Mussulman riot once in 10 years, or dispersing a *Bande Mataram* procession, is no ground for increasing the expenditure on the Police.

"Now, Your Honour, I shall go to certain little matters. We are Provincial Members, and we have to deal with details and to consider even little things. We have a personal and direct interest in all work in our Province and shall be thankful even if we get a thousand rupees for a tank. I object to the grant of Rs. 7,000 for an additional Assistant Secretary, Legislative Department. We have done tolerably well without one so long and the Legislative work has certainly not become heavier. Then I object to the increase of the remuneration of the Government Solicitor and the Public Prosecutor by Rs. 41,000. This is inexplicable to me. Then I object to the new grant of Rs. 5,000 for the cost of typing of Sessions Court records, not only for the use of Magistrates but also of Government Pleaders. I object to Rs. 1,92,000 allotted for new Inspecting Officers of Education, without any appreciable increase in the number of schools. I object to the grant of 2 lakhs for the purchase of Duff's College, for the Calcutta Police as not urgently required; as also to the sum of 1 lakh for the housing of Officials at Burdwan, as excessive and not urgently required. I object to the large sum allotted for the renewal of furniture on account of the change of Lieutenant Governor. How do we know the new Lieutenant-Governor will want it? I trust he will not. He will have Rs. 30,000 for the furniture of the new Durbar Hall, which the present Lieutenant-Governor will not have occasion to use. Lastly, I object to the increase of 2 lakhs for Stationery and Printing. The actuals, for undivided Bengal, in 1905-06, were 10 lakhs, and this year it is Rs. 12,92,000. This continued and extraordinary increase ought to stop. Your Honour, there has been an increase of expenditure in every department. We cannot afford it. Retrenchment is absolutely necessary in our present condition.

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

"I have last of all to draw your attention to the statement of receipts and expenditure of District Boards for the first time printed with the Budget. It is an improvement. It will at once show how great is the burden which the District Boards have to bear, which should not legitimately fall on them. They get from the Government Rs. 5,50,000 for Education, but they have to spend Rs. 11,59,138. Under head 'Medical,' they receive Rs. 14,000 from Government, but have to spend Rs. 4,20,072. They receive Rs. 9,000 under head 'Scientific', and they have to spend Rs. 63,368. We are all looking forward to the beneficent measures which we hope to see passed during Your Honour's Administration to alleviate the unbearable burden of the District Boards. Your Honour—I have done"

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said:—"Your Honour:—This year's budget is not a Prosperity Budget. The estimates for 1908-09 open with a balance of Rs. 21,32,000 and show receipts and expenditure aggregating Rs. 5,42,56,000 and Rs. 5,49,98,000, respectively; and a closing balance of Rs. 13,90,000, which is much below the minimum closing balance of Rs. 20,00,000. The Famine and consequent high prices of Food-stuffs have largely accounted for this deplorable state of the Provincial Finance; and it is our misfortune that Your Honour's Government, notwithstanding the normal growth of revenues, has been fettered in meeting the numerous wants of the country. There is no sign of falling off in the high prices of food-stuffs. During the last five years, the prices have been steadily rising; and they have now reached a pitch, quite unprecedented in the history of the country. Living has become very dear throughout the country, and great is the distress among the middle-class *bhadralog*.

"I am afraid that the Grain Compensation Allowance will be a permanent charge upon all employers, whether public or private. When the last Provincial Settlement was made with the Government of India, this important factor was absent from the consideration of both the Governments. I am sure that if this had been known before, Your Honour's Government would have pressed for, and the Government of India would have conceded, this sum in allotting the revenues to Your Honour's Government. The people of Bengal were, however, glad to observe that Your Honour referred to this subject in forcible terms in the Supreme Council. I hope Your Honour will see your way, at proper time, to press again upon the Government of India for a grant to meet this extraordinary charge, and thus free the Local Government to devote its resources more largely to the moral and material improvements of the country. I may be permitted here to add, that the allowance graciously granted by the Government is too small to confer any appreciable benefit on the recipients. I believe the Salaries Commission had no opportunity to consider this factor, as it was not in existence, when the Commission was appointed. The dearness of provision has produced such inconceivable suffering that it is incumbent on the Government to raise the scale of pay of all servants, drawing a salary of Rs. 100 and under. It may not be out of place to refer to an analogous case where the Government granted Exchange Compensation to its European employés, in order to relieve them from the effects of the depreciation of the rupee. The Indian public reasonably expect a similar concession from their benign Government, in dealing with the much more serious case of underpaid Indian employés of the Government in the present crisis.

"As regards the Budget, I regret to say that it has not been prepared in a clear and readily intelligible form. Your Honour was pleased to observe last year: 'Our object is to make our position as indicated in the budget intelligible to the ordinary reader, and I trust we shall be able to do something in this respect.' A year has since passed away, but unfortunately the budget, as framed this year, is no improvement on that of the previous year.

"To give one or two instances, I may mention that under the head 'Medical' lump sums are entered for the several Hospitals, which include establishment, dietary charges, rent, taxes and medical stores. I submit if the figures are separately given, the Public will readily know what amount is spent on diet and other items. Similarly, under Sanitation and Improvement,

Rs. 7,08,000 is provided. Deducting the Government of India's contribution of 4½ lakhs, which has not been earmarked for any particular project, the balance left is Rs. 2,58,000. The Public naturally expect to know the details of this allotment, to enable them to understand how much is spent for establishment and how much for works of sanitary improvement. The interest on loans is shown in the budget; but it will be interesting to have a statement showing the works on which the loan money is spent and the advances made to public bodies or individuals, for which the interest is charged. In this connection, I venture to suggest that a Commission may be appointed to consider the form in which the budget should be prepared, so as to make it more easily intelligible to the Public and to submit their recommendations for Your Honour's consideration.

"I find certain sums of money entered in last year's budget; for instance, allotments made to the Puri Municipality for Drainage, to the Kurseong Municipality for Water-supply, to the Patna Municipality for Drainage Pumping-station and to the Darjeeling Municipality for Sanitary Improvements, renewed in this year's budget, with a variation of the grants. I believe this is due to the non-execution of the works, and it is to be regretted that important Civil Works calculated to improve the sanitation of the country have been delayed and money granted left unspent.

"Since last year, by Your Honour's desire some of the non-official Members of Your Honour's Council are invited to meet the Secretaries of the various Departments of the Government, to discuss the Budget before it is submitted to the Council. A hope was expressed in the Council, by some of the Hon'ble Members, that the informal meeting would develop into a more useful consultation and that all the non-official Members would be given an opportunity to discuss the Budget, before it was finally cast into the stereotyped mould and laid before the Council, when criticisms, however eloquent and cogent, assumed more or less the nature of an academic discussion. Your Honour's assurance last year, that measures would be taken to ensure a more effective ascertainment of opinion on the budget, has not yet been realized. No tangible result has ensued from these consultations. All the non-official Members are not consulted, and I regret to observe that there has been an invidious distinction in inviting some Members and excluding others. There is an impression that these consultations are conventional and formal. But I am not without hope that ere long there will be a material change in the present practice.

"*Court-fees and the Calcutta Small Cause Court.*—Turning to the items of the budget, I find that the receipts from Court-fees have steadily increased from Rs. 1,00,20,000 in 1906-07 to Rs. 1,06,45,000 in the year, that has just closed, and to the estimated amount of Rs. 1,10,50,000 in the Budget of 1908-09. In this connection, I may be permitted to draw once again Your Honour's attention to the anomaly in charging Court-fees which exists in the Calcutta Court of Small Causes. This anomaly can be well understood when it is remembered that on the east side of Circular Road, *i.e.* in the Sealdah Small Cause Court, the Court-fee is 7½ *per cent.* and on the west side, *i.e.*, in the Calcutta Small Cause Court, the Court-fee is 11 *per cent.* I earnestly hope Your Honour will be pleased to remove this anomaly, by ordering a reduction of Court-fee charges in the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Last year, I drew Your Honour's attention to the prohibitive Court-fee levied on the institution of municipal assessment appeals in the Calcutta Small Cause Court. As I pointed out to Your Honour, these appeals were formerly heard by a Bench of Commissioners; but this inexpensive Court was abolished and the power of hearing the appeals was transferred to the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Hitherto no Court-fee was charged on the appeals and the rate-payers were consoled by the fact that the change of tribunal, though made in opposition to their wishes, did not entail any additional cost on them. But, latterly, the prohibitive Court-fees on these appeals have created a great dissatisfaction and the Corporation have approached Your Honour with a prayer for its abolition. I trust Your Honour will see your way to accede to the prayer.

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

In connection with the administration of justice, may I suggest to Your Honour to institute Honorary Benches in the Small Cause Court for disposal of petty civil suits? There are many cases which may be disposed of to the satisfaction of the public by business men, both European and Indian. The establishment of Honorary Benches will also lighten the burden of the Courts and will enable the suitors to have their cases adjudged by experts in matters which require expert knowledge, which Judges ordinarily do not possess.

"*Income-tax.*—The receipts from the Income-tax, notwithstanding the raising of minimum assessable income from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000, are steadily increasing from year to year; and in the budget of 1908-09, the receipts are estimated at Rs. 52,25,000 against Rs. 50,75,000, the actuals of the last year. It is not uncommon for Assessing Officers to pull up the figures to show an improvement over the collection of the previous year; and in their zeal they not unoften inflict hardships upon the people to whom the Government in its generosity wants to give relief. There is a great public complaint that the Income-tax assessments are in not a few cases based on anticipations of higher income, without regard to the net profit actually earned after a year's working. The raising of the minimum to at least Rs. 2,500 is urgently required for the relief of the poor middle-class, having regard to the dear living which has become a permanent burden on the population. Your Honour is no doubt aware of the attachment of the people of India to their ancestral dwelling-houses, which are worshipped as *Basta Bhitas*. If a clerk or a shop-keeper earns Rs. 50 a month and possesses a dwelling-house assessed at Rs. 700 *per annum* by the Municipality, his real income of Rs. 600 is added to the assessment of his house and he becomes liable to pay Income tax. To impose Income-tax on such unproductive holdings, is not only hard but unfair. An Income-tax is a tax on income, and it ought not to be levied on capital sunk on residential houses any more than on capital sunk on books furniture, ornaments or clothing. May I express a hope that Your Honour will be graciously pleased to move the Government of India on this subject?

"*City Improvement.*—I find fifty lakhs, which has been granted by the Government of India for the Calcutta City Improvement, earmarked and included in the cash balance from year to year. I think that, instead of carrying the fifty lakhs in cash balance from year to year, it may be invested, like the Victoria Memorial Fund, so that we may receive interest to the extent of two lakhs annually to swell the fund. As the money has been in the hands of the Government as a trust fund, may I not also ask that the interest of the past years be added to it? There is no subject of more absorbing interest to Calcutta than the City Improvement Scheme. I am, however, glad to learn from the speech of the Hon'ble the Home Member in the Supreme Council that though the scheme is lost to our view it is still making some progress, but the public are at a loss to know when it will be launched into operation. The announcement that the Secretary of State has been pleased to sanction the proposal of the Government of India of an annual contribution of one and-a-half lakhs of rupees, for sixty years, in addition to the initial grant of fifty lakhs, has been received with much satisfaction. But until the modified scheme is known to the public, they are in the dark as to the nature of the additional taxes contemplated under the scheme. I only echo the public voice when I ask the Government to be so good as to take the public into its confidence by publishing the scheme, with a view to enable them to offer their opinion and suggestions before the Secretary of State is committed to it. Referring to the Hon'ble Mr. Sutherland's remarks for a second maidan towards Tollygunge, I think the need for a second maidan is much greater in the northern part of the City than in the southern; and I believe none appreciated more the need of such an open space in the congested northern part than the Hon'ble Mr. Greer, while he was in the Corporation and also by his successor Sir Charles Allen.

"*Drainage of the Presidency Division.*—A sum of Rs. 30,000 has been allotted in the budget for taking remedial measures for the prevention of Malaria. For years past in this Council, Hon'ble Members urged on the Government to take steps for the eradication of Malaria which has devastated

the country. As it is the duty of the Government to maintain its Army and Navy for the protection of the people, so it is the duty of the Government to save the people from the ravages of this fell disease. I heartily thank the Government for appointing the Drainage Committee to inquire into the causes of Malarial Fever and the feasibility of undertaking remedial measures in the Presidency Division. A very careful report has been submitted; but, considering the gravity of the situation, Rs. 30,000 appears to be too meagre a sum for combating with this great evil. It will be interesting to know to what extent Rs. 30,000 is calculated to serve the object which the Drainage Committee had in view, and within what period the people can expect the introduction of the remedial measures? The sooner the obstructions to drainage, and the water-logged condition of the soil and the rank vegetation, are removed, the better for the sanitary condition, not only of the districts of the Presidency Division but also of the City of Calcutta, with which they are conterminous. No subject is of greater importance to the people living under Your Honour's sway, and no duty is more paramount to the Government, than the saving of the lives of the people; and many items of secondary importance in the budget might safely be put off for the present, in order to provide adequate funds for the adoption of the preventive measures against Malaria on a larger and more comprehensive scale.

"*Sanitary Improvement.*—The thanks of the people of Bengal are eminently due to the Government of India for the generous and spontaneous gift of Rs. 4,50,000 for the improvement of Sanitation, and I hope this grant will be added to and renewed every year. It is not stated, by the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary, how it is proposed to spend the money? I hope it will be spent on practical works of public utility, such as improvement of drainage and water-supply. As it is said, the sum will be spent in sanitary improvement, with special reference to the Plague; and as the Calcutta Municipality has spent and is still spending a large sum of money for Plague prevention, and as Calcutta is the seat of both the Provincial and the Imperial Governments, I think I can with fairness ask for a portion of this sum for the Calcutta Municipality, and I hope my hon'ble friend, Sir Charles Allen, will support me. The safety of the Metropolis is of paramount importance to the trade of India, and Calcutta, thanks to the vigilance of the local authorities, has been comparatively immune from Plague during recent years. I hope Your Honour will recognize that Calcutta deserves a share of the bounty of the Imperial Government.

"In Bengal, Malaria causes greater havoc than Plague, and has desolated many a fair and flourishing village. I hope the Government of India will be pleased to allow the greater portion of this grant to be expended on measures for the prevention of Malaria, for people enfeebled by Malaria fall an easy victim to Plague and other diseases.

"*Assistant Surgeons.*—I do not find that any provision has been made in this year's budget for increase of salary of the Civil Assistant Surgeons. They are a class of highly-useful and deserving public servants, who devote themselves to the improvement of the health of the people and the safety of individual lives in the remote parts of the Mufassal. Many of them, living in the out-of-the way stations have not the good fortune of obtaining a lucrative private practice. Even at the Presidency towns and Sadar stations, the Civil Assistant Surgeons cannot establish a good practice, owing to the increasing number of private practitioners who have already occupied the field and who are not subjected to transfer from one station to another, as is frequently the case with the Government Assistant Surgeons. The prospect and pay of the Civil Surgeons have much improved, and it is but just and fair that the miserable pay of the Civil Assistant Surgeons, ranging from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200, should be raised from Rs. 200, to Rs. 400, as was recommended by Sir William Grey; and that a larger number of qualified Assistant Surgeons be employed as Civil Surgeons. The larger employment of Assistant Surgeons, as Civil Surgeons, is in consonance with the declared policy of the Government, to give wider employment to the people of the country in posts for which they are fitted, and I trust Your Honour will give full effect to that generous policy.

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

"*Smoke-nuisance.*—I regret that the City has not yet derived any tangible benefit from the operation of the Smoke Nuisances Act. Every evening, since the beginning of the cold weather, the City is enveloped in dense smoke and the people of Calcutta are compelled to inhale the pestilential clouds of smoke to the detriment of their health. In the northern part of the City, the nuisance is very great. It is hoped that some information, as to the steps intended to be taken to prevent this nuisance, will be vouchsafed to the public.

"*Berai Canal Project.*—The repeated failure of seasonable rains and the recurrence of famine or scarcity of food, bring the question of Irrigation into prominence; and I submit that it is the paramount duty of the Government to come to the protection of the people, by providing Irrigation Canals, wherever practicable. In this connection, I desire to draw Your Honour's attention to the disappointment with which the reply of the Government was received by the inhabitants of fifty-five villages in the Bankura district, who prayed for the construction of a Canal from the river Berai, offering to pay water rates for the supply of water to their fields. It has been said in reply that the Canal cannot be remunerative, but surely the water-rate can be so fixed as to make the Canal pay its way, and, as the matter has not yet been finally disposed of, I earnestly hope that Your Honour's Government will see its way to comply with the prayer of the people.

"*Health Resort.*—Large sums of money have been spent for providing a Health Resort at Frasergunge. Last year, I ventured to appeal to Your Honour to provide a Health Resort for the Indians at Diamond Harbour. This station is within easy reach of Calcutta and is a healthy place, where my wearied and jaded countrymen may easily repair at week's end, for relaxation and invigoration. The place is full of pits or hollows and rank vegetation, and it is the *khasmahal* property of Government. What is necessary is, to fill up these hollows where water stagnates and to remove the weeds. The place, being on the river side, affords special facilities for drainage. The money spent on the improvement of the place will bring good return to Government, as I am sure the land will be largely availed of by my countrymen for building sites. This is a matter which I have been urged by my countrymen to lay before Your Honour. The Hon'ble Mr. Collins responded sympathetically to my appeal last year, but nothing has yet been done to improve the place. Knowing well how great an interest Your Honour takes, in the matter of the establishment of health resorts for the people, I once more appeal to Your Honour to make a suitable grant for the improvement of Diamond Harbour, and the construction of a commodious rest house, for which my countrymen will always remember your name with gratitude.

"I cannot conclude my remarks on this subject without offering the warmest thanks of my community to my hon'ble friend, the Maharaja-Dhiraj of Burdwan, for the spirited appeal he has made to Your Honour for the establishment of a Sanitarium at Pareshnath for the enfeebled and sickly poor middle class, and the munificent offer of one lackh of rupees for that purpose.

"*Calcutta Municipality.*—As regards the Municipality, the time has come to amend the Act. The constitution is unworkable and experience has shown that it should be re-cast on a more popular basis, so as to give adequate representation to the people and wider scope to the usefulness of their representatives. The functions of the three Co-ordinate Authorities overlap, and the functions of the Corporation are encroached upon by the other Authorities. The work is so enormous that it is impossible for even a hard-working Chairman, like Sir Charles Allen, to discharge his duties without the help and co operation of the Commissioners; and, in this connection, I cannot but refer to the valuable services of some of the European Commissioners, and conspicuous amongst them are the Members of the Trade and the Chamber. The Municipality is the only place where the European and the Indian work hand in hand from year's end to year's end; and the relations between them, in spite of occasional and some times marked differences of opinion, are on the whole of a cordial character. The Chairman, when he is not in agreement with his Colleagues, asserts

his power as a Co ordinate Authority and this results in friction, as has been recently the case.

"It has also been found by experience and suggested in the Corporation that the President of the Corporation and of the General Committee should be, as in Bombay, a member of the Corporation and not the head of the Executive.

"It has been likewise found that the constitution of the General Committee, with four elected and eight nominated Commissioners, with an official Chairman, renders the voice of the rate-payers ineffectual in its deliberations.

"The Decentralization Scheme, introduced by the Hon'ble Mr. Greer whom his numerous friends are glad to welcome back to Calcutta and to this Council, resulted in the division of Calcutta into four Districts. District Officers, with separate staff, with miniature reproduction of executive heads and with a miniature Corporation in the District Committees, were established. Unfortunately, full scope has not yet been given to their usefulness. What Mr. Greer wanted was to relieve the Corporation of the enormous mass of local works and local details, by referring them to District Committees, and to leave the major operation in the hands of the Corporation. But that is not done. Local matters are decided by the General Committee or other Committees, either without reference to the District Committee to which these appertain or without a proper consideration of its recommendations. In fact, the District Committee is now more a nominal than a really useful body. Your Honour was pleased to state, three years ago, that you had appointed a representative Committee to advise you on the subject of Decentralization, and that you were awaiting their report. May I inquire whether the report of the Committee has been received, and, if so, whether Your Honour has dealt with the matter?

"Quite recently, Your Honour has expressed your satisfaction with the completion of continuous Water-supply in the town proper. I am afraid Your Honour had no full information on the subject; and, as a matter of fact, in several parts of the town, there is no water available in house-taps during mid-day, while there is a profusion of water at night. The law, regulating the supply of water at the 1 per 4,000 gallons, causes great hardship to small house-owners with large families, and on this point it requires amendment. This restriction, in the use of filtered water, leads the people to have recourse to unfiltered water for domestic consumption, which conduces to the outbreak of disease. By all means, stringent measures should be taken to prevent waste; but liberal provision should be made for supply of water per head of population. Waste, however, should not be confounded with legitimate use of water in a tropical climate.

"The revision of assessment of Residential Houses has raised quite a storm of opposition in the City. I need hardly recapitulate the old arguments that the distinction in the method of taxation, between residential and rented houses, is wrong in principle, and which does not prevail anywhere else and has been condemned by eminent economists. Residential houses, unlike rented houses, are unproductive holdings, and enhancement of the assessment every six years has produced profound discontent in the City. When the present law, fixing 5 *per cent.* as the basis of valuation on the sum obtained by adding together the cost of construction of the building and the value of the land was introduced, the interest on Government securities was 4 *per cent.* and of the securities of the local authorities 5 *per cent.* The interest has now been reduced to 4 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.*, and even to 3 *per cent.* I submit the 5 *per cent.* ought to be reduced to $3\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.*; and that the necessary sanitary improvement of the house must not be taxed, as it hinders the execution of sanitary works for fear of additional taxation. In the same way, the open spaces attached to *bond fide* dwelling houses, which serve as the lungs of the City, should be immune from taxation, as an encouragement to keep such open spaces. A good healthy house is not only needed for healthful existence of the occupants thereof, but is also a boon to the neighbours. May I express a hope that Your Honour will kindly consider this question in a sympathetic spirit. The rate-payers recently made a representation to the Chairman in connection with the

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

revision of assessment of the City, and I am glad to state that they are grateful to Sir Charles Allen for the patient and sympathetic hearing he gave to them; and it is earnestly hoped, by the vast mass of the rate-payers, that the sympathy of Sir Charles Allen will be a practical turn.

"*Calcutta Police Court.*—I find that two lakhs is entered in the budget for the acquisition of Duff College, for the accommodation of the local Police. I think, having regard to the present condition of our finances, this expenditure might have been avoided and the money so saved might have been spent in sanitary improvements of the villages in the Mufassal. While so thoughtful and liberal a provision has been made for the local Police, who are not without a house, no provision has been made for the improvement and extension of the Calcutta Police Court. A more insanitary and incommodious public building does not exist in Calcutta. The Honorary Benches are located in dark and dingy cells, where, even in blazing noonday, the Courts are inaccessible to light. The Stipendiary Court rooms are, no doubt, much better than the Honorary Court rooms, but the building is a disgrace to the City, and it was never intended when built to accommodate so many Courts. I wonder the Municipal Executive, who are so keen in closing or demolishing over-crowded, ill-ventilated and insanitary poor men's dwellings, have shut their eyes to this over-crowded, insanitary and ill-ventilated structure. I hear that the Hon'ble the Chief Secretary has visited the building, and the public should be glad to know what he thinks of the building and the accommodation therein.

"I have described the condition of the Honorary Magistrates' rooms. I now turn to the treatment accorded to them. By degrees, their position has been reduced to a nullity. Formerly, there were two Stipendiary Magistrates; now there are five, including the Municipal Magistrate. In the days of Messrs. Marsden and Pearson, the Honorary Benches were treated on the same footing as the Stipendiary Benches. They were freely given cases to try. Now, the cases have been largely withheld from them and placed in the hands of the Stipendiary Magistrates. They are invited to attend. They call in response to the invitation, but not unoften they have to dance attendance in the Chamber till a mandate comes: 'No case, you may go.' The Honorary Magistrate, who is only consoled while getting into his carriage by a Military *salam* from a solitary *parawalla* at the gate, has then to wend his way homeward or officeward.

"Formerly, there was a Library of references consisting of Law Reports and law books and volumes of the Calcutta Gazette, for the use of the Honorary Magistrates. I understand they have been disposed of. When required for reference on the Bench, a tattered copy of an old edition of the Criminal Procedure Code or the Indian Penal Code, with stray pages of the text, is obtained with some difficulty. Having regard to this state of things, the question naturally arises whether the object of all this is to keep up the semblance, of a show, which may flatter one's self-complacency but which will never serve any useful purpose. I have ventured to lay before Your Honour the facts, with perfect frankness, in the firm confidence that they may be set right by Your Honour. I would strongly urge that the post of Fourth Magistrate be not made permanent. It is wholly unnecessary if the services of the Honorary Magistrates, some of whom are not called at all or called at long intervals, are utilized. The money so saved can be well spent in other directions. I am glad to observe that the Government has been pleased to provide in the budget for payment of the establishment charges of the Municipal Magistrate's Court, which had hitherto been realized from the Corporation of Calcutta. I thank Your Honour for this just decision, and trust the back amounts realized under misapprehension will be remitted to the Corporation.

"*Police.*—I find the charges, for maintaining the Police Force in Bengal, are steadily increasing every year. Since 1904-05, they have risen from Rs. 51,57,000 to Rs. 77,63,000, being the amount entered in the budget of the present year. This includes a lump sum provision of Rs. 40,000 for the Presidency Police, and Rs. 3,60,000 for the District Police. I do not grudge this

large expenditure, but, at the same time, I must say that there has not been any thing like a corresponding measure of improvement in the administration of the Police, which was hoped for when the recommendations of the Police Commission were made. My observation is chiefly with reference to the Presidency Police of Calcutta, and I believe I give expression to a consensus of public opinion, both European and Indian, when I say that the Police of Calcutta, generally speaking, has not improved in efficiency and behaviour. At the same time, I readily acknowledge that there are individual members of the force, both high and low, who would do credit to any service. The reform of the Calcutta Police is one of the most important subjects, in connection with the question of the general reform of the Police Administration in Bengal. More than three years have passed away since the Resolution on the report of the Police Commission was issued. Your Honour, as President of the Commission, advocated some reforms of the Calcutta Police. Our expectation that, as Head of the Provincial Government, Your Honour would speedily introduce those reforms, has unfortunately not yet been realized.

"The Police Commission recommended that the present class of Superintendents of the Calcutta Police should be abolished, their place being taken by a small number of officers of the rank of the District Superintendent, who should be deputed for duty in the City. As yet, only one Superintendent has been replaced by a member of the Provincial Police Force.

"The Police Commission condemned the practice of Head constables investigating cases. From my own experience as a citizen, I find head-constables, whose salary varies from Rs. 17 to Rs. 25 a month, are sent out to investigate cases. As a matter of fact, the investigation by the head-constable generally passes as the investigation of the Inspector, and is acted upon by the Commissioner in the disposal of cases. The higher officers, such as the Inspector and Superintendent, merely act as post-offices between the head-constable and the Police Commissioner. In the interest of the public, the investigation must not be left to those low-paid and unqualified officers. The Inspector or the Sub-Inspector of a thana ought to do this work himself, specially when he is granted conveyance allowance by the Government. In days gone by, when the Chairman of the Corporation was the head of the City Police there was close and intimate association with the Head of the Police and the leaders of the community, which not a little helped him in the discharge of his duties. The people knew him and he knew the people, and there was then that great forbearance, mildness, courtesy and perfect civility with which the Police treated the people of all classes and sects, and any deviation from which was severely dealt with by the Head of the Police. Under the present system, a Commissioner of Police, even with an earnest desire to ascertain public opinion or feeling, has not the same opportunity of doing so as when he was in touch with representatives of the people in his capacity as Chairman of the Corporation.

"Sir, I wish the Police had maintained the same reputation which it had in those days. The regrettable incidents of the 3rd and 4th October last have sunk into the hearts of the people; nothing tends more to alienate the people from their Rulers than their ill-treatment by the Police. It is the most effective instrument to destroy all good feelings between the rulers and the ruled. The people, the vast majority of whom are non-political, suffered because of their nationality. The Police betrayed an animus against the Bengali populace, mercilessly and indiscriminately assaulting them, inflicting grievous wounds and even causing death to a poor handicraftsman while proceeding to the market. The people approached Your Honour for redress, and nothing would have secured greater public confidence in the proceedings of the Government than an inquiry by a mixed Commission, consisting of Officials and Non-officials, according to the established procedure; but, unfortunately, the prayer of the whole nation was not acceded to. The people unfortunately felt that there was that marked lack of sympathy with the Bengali nation, which was the root of all their trouble. On this point, Mr. Weston also spoke of a possible want of sympathy with the Bengali race. Whatever may be the

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

differences between the Government and some of our political writers and speakers, I submit that such differences ought not to create a temper of mind in the responsible authorities, which might be construed as a rising from want of sympathy with the Bengali nation. Such an impression defeats the very object which the Government has at heart, *viz.*, to secure the loyalty and willing allegiance of the people. Loyalty proceeds from the heart. It is not generated by force and ill-treatment. The greater the sympathy—genuine and practical sympathy—the greater will be the love and affection of the people.

"Whatever may be said by certain thoughtless persons the people recognize the manifold blessings of British rule. Britain may justly be proud of the aspirations of my countrymen, which are the logical outcome of the progressive policy of that rule. No Indian at heart wishes for a change of British rule, whatever may be the language of certain irresponsible individuals which we all condemn, and which proceeds more from exasperated feelings than from inmost conviction. The foolish and insensate writings of irate scribblers cause amusement rather than mischief; but the lawless and oppressive acts of the Police are calculated to sap the foundations of that contentment and confidence in the Government which constitute its strength and bulwark. As an humble citizen, I can assure Your Honour that, from the highest to the lowest, the feeling brought about by the conduct of the Police and their exoneration by the Government have been one of bitter disappointment and dissatisfaction. Your Honour has been addressed by the Head of the Provincial Police as the 'Friend of the Police,' for the benefits the Department has received at Your Honour's hands. But I am sure Your Honour will appreciate more the title of 'Friend and Protector' of the people, which a grateful community, like ours, will gladly bestow upon their Ruler. It is a high title of which a Ruler may justly be proud, and if I have ventured to give expression to the feelings of the mass of my countrymen I have done so because I think a true friend of the people cannot disregard them. I recognize the embarassment which has been caused to Government, by the surging wave of discontent in the land. I regret to observe that, during the last few years, the estrangement between the rulers and the ruled has become great. But while it is the duty of every loyal subject to try to smooth the friction between the people and the Government, it is, at the same time, the duty of the Government to strengthen his hands by a sympathetic dealing with the people and by reposing great trust and confidence in them. The times are so changed that true statesmanship enjoins a sympathetic treatment of the people with a scrupulous regard for their sentiment.

"No doubt force and repression may wipe out the manifestation of discontent on the surface for a time, but the disease will never be eradicated. It will sink deeper and deeper like a cankerous sore. Such a state of things can never be contemplated with equanimity. Fortunately, the vast majority of people believe that, whatever may be the views and idiosyncracies of some of the official representatives of the great British nation, the heart of that great nation is sound to the core; and that there is no nation, on the face of the earth, more freedom-loving and justice-loving than the British. By the gracious dispensation of Providence, our lot has been placed in their hands and may it continue in their hands.

"I cannot forbear alluding to the admirable result which ensue from the trust reposed in the people and non-interference with them. The *Ardhodoy Joga* is an instance in point. Under the inspiration of Your Honour, the Police refrained from interfering with the people on that occasion. How admirably the volunteers, most of whom belong to high caste families, managed the vast concourse of the people, helping the poor, the aged, the decrepit and the forlorn, ministering to the sick and even carrying the corpses to the funeral pyre, is well-known to Your Honour. There has arisen, during recent years, a keen desire on the part of the people to serve their fellow-countrymen and their motherland, and to undergo all privations to attain that object. The *Ardhodoy Joga* has shown that non-interference with this legitimate and

laudable ambition of the people serves not only to dissipate much misunderstanding and discord, but invokes reciprocal appreciation of kindly feelings between the Government and the people. There may be now and then occasional indiscretions, which none deplore more than I do; but that occurs in every clime and every country in the world, in the East or in the West. Unfortunately, there is a tendency in India to magnify such cases into political crimes. But, in the interest of good Government, they ought to be prevented, and I know it is the endeavour of the leaders of the people to prevent them. I pray Your Honour will also inculcate a spirit of forbearance and sympathy towards the Bengalis into your Officers, so that the irritation, ill-feeling and friction engendered by misunderstanding on both sides may pass away."

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN said:—"Your Honour—The first matter with reference to the Corporation, which calls for notice, arises from the Hon'ble Mr. Larmour's remarks with reference to the Improvement Trust; and especially his observation that, during the last ten years, practically nothing has been done for the sanitation and improvement of the City. I do not know what precise significance the Hon'ble Mr. Larmour attaches to this statement. If he means that nothing has been done to open up congested areas, by the construction of broad roads and open spaces, I am with him; for these are operations demanding a heavy expenditure, which it is not within the power of the Corporation, to meet without neglecting the other duties devolving upon it. But the Hon'ble Mr. Larmour appears to go very much further than this, when he says that nothing has been done during the past ten years, for the improvement and sanitation of the City; and it is the more necessary for me to notice this observation, as it is a repetition of a somewhat similar statement recently made in the Imperial Legislative Council.

"I think it probable that some confusion may exist owing to a misconception of the scope of the Improvement Trust, which, as Your Honour pointed out in Council, will not in any way relieve the Corporation of any of its ordinary duties, in connection with the improvement and sanitation of the City. What the Improvement Trust will do, will be to raise the large sums of money which are required for the purchase of land in the congested wards of the City, for the construction of wide thoroughfares and open spaces; but all the ordinary municipal duties, in connection with water-supply, drainage, road repairs, conservancy and lighting will continue to devolve as heretofore upon the Corporation.

"I now proceed to examine the Hon'ble Mr. Larmour's statement that nothing, or practically nothing, has been done during the past ten years for the improvement and sanitation of the City; and I shall endeavour to controvert this assertion in the only way open to me, by summarizing briefly what has actually been done. In doing so, I shall confine my remarks to the eight years which have elapsed since April, 1900, when the present Municipal Act came into force. The field covered by the improvements, carried out during even these eight years, is an extensive one, as the Council will gather when I inform them that the capital expenditure upon works of sanitation and improvement during that period, amounts to one crore and 44 lakhs, a figure which does not include the cost of the new municipal offices, which would swell it to considerably over a million sterling. I do not propose to weary my hon'ble colleagues by a lengthy recital of the voluminous details comprised in this list, but shall merely draw attention to a few salient items.

"Take drainage for example. At a cost of 41 lakhs, we have completed the drainage of the suburbs east and south of the city, extending from Sealdah on the north to the limits of Calcutta on the south, and west as far as Tolly's Nullah; the area comprising Belliaghatta, Entally, Ballygunge and Bhowanipore. The improvement which has taken place in the area drained has been most marked, many miles of roadside drains, which were formerly merely elongated cess-pools, having been relieved into the sewers. Another feature of this work has been the improvement of the city storm-water outfall, by the construction of huge reservoirs which prevent the outlets from becoming tide-

[*Sir Charles Allen.*]

locked, and by the installation of additional pumping power at Palmer's Bridge, to deal with the sewage and flush water.

"After drainage, the most important sanitary requirement is pure drinking water, and here, although the most prominent features of the new water scheme have still to be carried out, a great deal has been done to prepare the way for it, by a systematic examination of all mains and connections throughout the city, with a view to check leakage and waste. Large arterial mains have also been substituted for the smaller pipes, which formerly choked the supply to the suburbs. Additional filters have been constructed and new pumps installed where needed, while the reservoir accommodation has been increased. Last, but not least, the supply of filtered water to the city has been increased by about 30 *per cent.* The effect of all these measures has been to improve the supply, in spite of the rapidity with which the population has increased; and the capital expenditure involved has been no less than 45 lakhs.

"I have said that the cost of constructing wide thoroughfares through the congested parts of the city involves so heavy an expenditure that it cannot be undertaken on a large scale from ordinary municipal funds; but the Corporation has not meanwhile been neglectful of its duty in this respect, as is shown by the fact that the expenditure, during the period, upon new roads in the suburbs and for opening up bustees, has been 19 lakhs. Nor has the improvement of the city thoroughfares been overlooked, for we have spent 3¾ lakhs on kerb and channelling, and 3½ lakhs on the paving of footpaths; while Indian patent stone hackney-carriage stands have been constructed on an extensive scale.

"Much useful work has been done in improving the conservancy, which was formerly sadly neglected. Four fine ranges of stabling, one in each of the districts, have replaced the old inadequate accommodation; while the equipment of animals and carts has been greatly strengthened. The result is that an afternoon service has been organized throughout the city, and the streets are kept much cleaner than they ever were before; while the animals are no longer overworked. The expenditure involved, in these improvements and in the construction of an incinerator, has been nearly ten lakhs.

"Great attention has been paid to the improvement of the public markets, slaughter-houses and dhobikhanas, and these have now been put into first-rate condition at a cost of 8 lakhs; and, among other improvements, I may mention the provision of new burial-grounds, the construction of a crematorium, and the improvement of burning-ghâts at a cost of 3½ lakhs; while 5½ lakhs has been spent on the provision and improvement of squares, Rs. 54,000 upon an up-to-date vaccine depôt, which turns out admirable lymph, and nearly a lakh upon public conveniences.

"This list takes no account of the conspicuous improvement which has resulted from the pressure put upon owners to improve filthy and insanitary bustees, a large number of which have been mended or ended within the last few years.

"At the risk of wearying the Council, I have thought it desirable to place on record a statement, which, while it cannot pretend to be exhaustive, has, I hope, nevertheless convinced my colleagues that the new Corporation has not been idle during the past eight years; and I claim that the record of improvements, which I have sketched in barest outline, is one of which any city might well be proud.

"In the face of all these improvements it is surprising that my friend, the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal, should come here and tell us that the Act is unworkable. I fear this is an instance of the wish being father to the thought, and that my hon'ble friend condemns the present constitution, because it does not give him, and the class he represents, all the power they would like to exercise. He informs us that when the Chairman is not in agreement with the Commissioners, he asserts his power as a co-ordinate authority, and this results in friction as has been the case recently. My colleague is referring to a case, which arose out of an inquiry into the conduct of some municipal subordinates,

the question being whether the charges made should be investigated by the Corporation, or by myself. My hon'ble friend is not correct when he suggests that, in that matter, I was not in agreement with the Commissioners; for I was in full accord with them in the determination to punish any persons who might be proved guilty of corrupt practice. Moreover, so far from this case proving that the Act is unworkable, it points to a diametrically opposite conclusion; for nothing could be more workable than the provision in the Act, that differences of opinion on the question of jurisdiction should be referred, as this one is to be, to the Local Government for final decision.

"I do not propose to follow the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal and the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari in their proposals for the amendment of the Act, as the Corporation has recently appointed a Committee to consider this very question; and the matters which they bring forward can, at the present time, be more suitably discussed in that Committee.

"I am glad to find my hon'ble colleague anxious that District Committees should enjoy larger scope, as I am in sympathy with this desire. The Corporation has, however, gone as far as the law permits in the direction of delegating authority to these District Committees; and no further devolution can take place under the existing Act. This limitation does not, however, prevent the District Committees from doing most useful work.

"I do not, however, find myself in agreement with him in what he says about the water-supply. It is certainly a matter for satisfaction that the heavy work of repairing leaky mains, of laying larger mains where necessary, of fixing waste water-meters and stop-cocks, of bringing waste under control and of repairing leaky fittings and connections, has been completed in the town proper; for these operations form a necessary preliminary to the introduction of the constant supply. Their completion has rendered it possible to maintain a continuous pressure in the mains, which, while it is insufficient to yield a supply to the houses throughout the 24 hours, yet plays a most valuable part in preventing the ingress of foul sub-soil water into the pipes. All this work has for years been described under the phrase of 'conversion of the intermittent to the constant supply,' a phrase which has been repeatedly defined, and with which all who are acquainted with the subject are perfectly familiar. As a matter of fact, the Government letter referred to by the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal merely quoted this phrase from my Annual Report, where its use elicited no comment from the Commissioners, for the reason that they perfectly well understood it. It has never been claimed that a constant supply has in fact been introduced into the houses, and I do not understand that Your Honour's Government has been under any misapprehension in this matter; indeed, Your Honour has recently sanctioned the scheme which is necessary to make the constant supply a reality.

"As regards the charges for excess consumption of water, there are no doubt cases where a poor family of many members consumes more than the maximum allowed free without wasting it, and such cases are met in practice by cancelling bills for excess consumption, when it does not exceed a reasonable quantity per head per day. It is useless to shut out eyes to the fact that an immense quantity of wilful waste of water does take place; nevertheless, I have no doubt that any practical proposal which, while not interfering with the prevention of wilful waste, would secure a gratuitous supply of sufficient filtered water to all classes of the population, would receive careful consideration.

"I now turn to the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal's remarks about the revision of assessment of Residential Houses. The method of assessing residential houses, which was introduced in 1889, has always been unpopular, and recent assessments in two of the northern wards have given rise to much discussion. I have upon two occasions received deputations on the subject, and have endeavoured to meet the wishes of the rate-payers as far as possible. The appeals against the assessments are heard by the Vice-Chairman, an officer of great experience in these matters; and the assessees, if dissatisfied with his decisions, have a right of appeal to the Small Cause Court. I have

recently given the assessees an opportunity of selecting specific cases at their pleasure, in which they believe that the assessments have been too high; and I have promised to make an independent inquiry into them if they do so, but they have not yet availed themselves of my offer.

"In this connection, I must observe that my hon'ble friend's argument that because the rate of interest on Government securities has fallen, therefore the rate of 5 *per cent.* on the valuation at which the annual value is calculated should be correspondingly reduced, is not a sound contention.

"As Mr. Baker pointed out in Council on the 18th September, 1899: 'the rate of interest on Government Securities has nothing to do with the matter. The true principle is that capital invested in house property always, in the long run, expects to receive the same return, whether it be invested in rented houses or in residential houses; and if, for any reason, it does not get that return, it will not be invested at all.' Now, it is a matter of common knowledge, that house rents are rising, and theoretically, therefore, the rate of 5 *per cent.* ought to be increased rather than reduced. So far then from being correct is my hon'ble friend's contention that owners of residential houses are unfairly penalized by the percentage not having been reduced, that they have actually derived a benefit in comparison with the owners of rented houses, from the fact that the rate has remained unchanged. As evidence of this, as well as of the leniency with which residential houses are treated in comparison with rented houses, I may observe that, in Ward VI, the recent assessment yielded an increase of only 19 *per cent.* in the case of residential houses, as compared with 35 *per cent.* for rented premises.

"With regard to what the hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari has said upon the subject of the enforcement, at the instance of the Corporation, of the provisions of the amended Calcutta Police Act, I venture to suggest that the Corporation is more likely to take action in this matter if it receives a reasonable recommendation from a public association, or from responsible private individuals interested in the matter. If any such representation reaches me, I will undertake that it shall receive the fullest consideration at the hands of the Corporation."

The Hon'ble Mr. Collin said:—"Your Honour—On behalf of the Commission appointed under the Smoke Nuisances Act, I desire to refer to the remarks of the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal, that Calcutta has not yet derived any tangible benefit from the operation of that Act. The Act has now been in force for two years, though the rules, which make it effective, did not come into force until last August. During the two years, Inspectors have been at work. Thanks largely to the co-operation of the Mill-Owners and the improvements which they have introduced into their furnaces, the amount of black smoke emitted from factory chimneys has been greatly reduced. In 1906, the observations of the Inspectors showed that dense black smoke was emitted for about 13 minutes per hour during the day. It is now emitted for only 2½ minutes per hour. The legal limit of smoke emission is now seldom exceeded, except in the mornings when furnaces are being lighted up; and in the evenings when additional power is required for electric lighting in factories. Since 1906, mechanical stokers and smoke preventive appliances have been fitted to 91 furnaces and 74 chimneys have been lengthened. Since August, 1907, when the rules came into force, notices or warnings, which must precede prosecutions, have been issued in 74 cases, with successful results. There have been three prosecutions ending in convictions.

"The Hon'ble Member complains that since the beginning of the cold weather the City, especially the northern part of it, has been enveloped in dense smoke. I would point out to him that this arises largely from the domestic fires, which the Commission is not able to deal with under the Act. There are other causes, such as the smoke from small workshops, blacksmiths' forges and potteries; and the Commission has recently ordered the potters, who now have no chimneys at all, to put up chimneys according to the provisions of the Act. As for the smoke from blacksmiths' forges and small workshops, the Commission has not yet been able to deal with it, without

causing great interference with trade. Complaints from individuals are received and action is taken on them, where possible. The Commission, however, is not able to deal with the smoke from bustees and domestic fire-places, which, owing to the increased use of coal, are becoming more offensive. So far, however, as factory chimneys are concerned, the results of the two years' working have been satisfactory, and they have been obtained without causing any unnecessary interference with the owners.

"The Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal has also referred to his appeal made last year for a Health Resort at Diamond Harbour. The matter has not been overlooked, and the District Board of the 24-Parganas, at my suggestion, have prepared a scheme for the construction of a dâk bungalow, where, as proposed by the Hon'ble Member, he and his countrymen may repair to restore their energies after the labours of the week. The District Board, however, thought that those labours affected a wider area than the single district of the 24-Pargauas, and they therefore applied to the Local Government for a portion of the cost of the scheme. This application is now under consideration, and it is to be hoped that the scheme will be shortly carried out.

"The Hon'ble Member has referred to the large sums of money spent for providing a Health Resort at Frasergunge. I would point out that most of the money spent there has been for the reclamation of the island, for purposes of colonization; and it is hoped to attract cultivators who will till the lands to their own profit and that of Government. A small amount has been spent on the improvement of the Sea-front which, with its fine sea breezes and open sands, provides a far finer sanitarium than is possible at Diamond Harbour. Building sites are now available for Europeans and Indians, and I am sure that, if the Hon'ble Member will set the example and build himself a bungalow there, Frasergunge will soon become a popular sea-side health resort."

The Hon'ble MR. INGLIS said:—"I will not detain the Council for long; but I wish to notice a few suggestions and to meet some criticisms which have fallen from Hon'ble Members in the course of this debate, in respect to Canals, Irrigation and Drainage. The Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad has suggested that Government should take in hand Irrigation from wells and from small streams on commercial lines, that is, as remunerative projects. Now, while I am entirely in sympathy with the Hon'ble Member in his desire for the extension of Irrigation, I do not think that Government Agency is required or is suitable for the class of works indicated. There is already an extensive use of wells in South Bihar, and there is also a large use of water stored in *ahars* or taken by means of *pynes* from the smaller rivers. Such works are well within the competence of the land-owners and the cultivators, and it seems to me much better that they should develop them for themselves and without the intervention of the Executive Government.

"I am the last to deny that there are certain defects or dangers inherent to Canal Irrigation. When, however, the Hon'ble Member says that in some localities lands irrigated by canal water are being irrigated by the deposit of silt, I must enter a protest, so far at all events as this Province is concerned. If there is one thing more than another that we take credit from in respect to the Bengal Canals, it is that they carry, during the rains, a silt that is finely divided alluvial matter of a very good quality. The deposit of this silt is of great value to the lands, and so far as my experience extends, this is fully appreciated by the cultivators.

"The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose and the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal desire, or at least I understand that they desire, that a more active policy may be pursued in respect to Drainage in the districts of the Presidency Division.

"I am not quite sure myself, and I have some doubts whether the Hon'ble Members themselves are quite sure, what it is that they ask for. Sub-soil drainage I may, I thinks safely say, is under the condition of this tract of country, altogether out of the question. By an effective system of surface

drainage, parts of the country might, as I said at this, time last year, be brought to the state in which we find the Calcutta Maidan. To do this, means giving up the cultivation of rice, and this, I take it, is not seriously contemplated by the Hon'ble Members.

"There are no doubt a good may places where the drainage of swamp lands, for the benefit of agriculture, could be carried out as has been done in the past in the Howrah District at Damcooni near Howrah itself, and at Rajapore. For schemes, such as these, the Bengal Drainage Act provides, and the decision rests with the landholders. The schemes are for the economic benefit of particular tracts, and there does not appear to be any reason for the cost being met by the general tax-payer.

"For another class of works where it can be shown that the drainage will be beneficial to health, action can be taken under the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act. In this case, the initiative rests with the District Board. The scheme, if accepted by the Board, is carried out at the cost of the owners and occupiers of lands, which are held to be beneficially effected; but, as the ecomonic benefit is more remote, grant-in-aid is permissible from general revenues, and the Act contemplates such assistance being given. The only scheme which has actually been accepted, so far under this Act, is that in the southern part of the 24-Parganas District, known as the Magra Hat Scheme, which is now in full progress, and which deals with a tract of 290 square miles.

"Two other schemes of this nature are at present in the initial stage, that is, they are being considered by Drainage Commissioners and the District Boards. These schemes are for the country near Barasat in the district of the 24-Parganas, and for the tract of country near the head-quarters of the Jessore District.

"Yet another class of scheme is, that where Municipal areas are mainly affected. One scheme of this nature, now under consideration, is that known as the Bag-Jolal Drainage. This will provide for the surface drainage of a number of the small municipalities along the bank of the river to the north of Calcutta. The arrangement which has been come to, and which is I think an eminently fair one, is that Government will from Provincial Revenues construct the main outfall channel, which will include a regulator admitting the water to the navigable canal now being constructed from Ulta-Danga to Bhamanghatti, and thence by means of a large sluice to the Salt-lake tidal Channel; while the municipalities will construct the small drains leading to the outfall.

"A somewhat similar scheme is being worked out at Berhampur, in the Murshidabad District, where it is proposed that Government should construct an outfall channel, which will lower the level of the water in the large depressions near the town; and, in doing so, will to some extent have the water in the sub-soil of the inhabited area.

"In schemes of the latter class, there is no difficulty about apportionment of cost. Government gives from Provincial Revenues a grant-in-aid to a municipality, and the Municipal area benefits all over and is assessed under the Municipal Act for its share of the cost.

"In respect to schemes for Agricultural Drainage, it is comparatively simple to determine the lands benefited; though even here there is apt to be considerable divergence of opinion as to the extent of the benefit. When, however, the question of improvement of health comes in it is to my mind an extremely difficult problem to say what the limits of the tract benefited are to be, or in what way the benefit can be established.

"As I said last year in this Council, it would appear that the general medical opinion is that the small holes and pits about the village-sites and the undergrowth, are of more importance in the matter of malarial fever than the obstructions in the water-courses, and the remedy to the former must originate within the village.

"I am afraid I have occupied too much of the time of the Council, but I have thought it right to show that this very difficult question of Drainage continues to receive the attention of Government; and to point out that it is

very much easier to suggest drainage as a remedy, than it is to show exactly how the remedy is to be applied or how the expense is to be met.

"The Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari does not approve of the provision for an expenditure of Rs. 45,000 in altering one of the bridges on the Circular Canal, to allow of an extension of the tramway to the north of the Canal. This extension has been asked for by the residents of the Cossipur-Chitpore Municipality and by others in that neighbourhood. The Tramway Company was not prepared to take up the extension, if more than a small share of the cost of altering the bridge had to be met by it; and as the extension will, if carried out, be of much service to the public generally a grant from Provincial Revenues has been provided to meet what is a public want.

"The case of the proposed additional bridge at Chetla, over Tolly's Nullah alluded to by the Hon'ble Member is, as I showed quite recently in answer to a question in Council, of a difficult character; since Government was advised by responsible officers that there was very little public need for the additional bridge."

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD said:—"In dealing with the subjects belonging to the General and Judicial Departments, I propose to begin with the most important of all—Education. This is a subject on which almost all the Hon'ble Members, who have spoken, have had something, some a very great deal, to say; and I trust, therefore, that I shall be pardoned if I do not follow them into the details of every point that has been raised.

"The total amount of the budget allotment for Education has been severely criticized in several quarters. The Government is perfectly ready to admit, as the Resolution on the recent Quinquennial report shows, that much more might advantageously be spent on Education, than is at present possible. At the same time, as the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham has shown in his speech on the Financial Statement, expenditure on Education has risen from 26 lakhs to 42½ lakhs, between the years 1902-03 and 1906-07. Provincial expenditure must necessarily depend on the amounts allotted by the Imperial Government, and I think it may be said, with some show of reason, that Bengal was not formerly treated with proper liberality, as regards grants for Educational purposes. Of late years, however, various large grants have been made from Imperial Funds; it is hoped that still larger grants are impending, and I do not think it can be said now that Government is unmindful of its duties in this behalf. It seems to me vain and unprofitable to compare the expenditure on Education in India, where taxation is kept as low as the absolute exigencies of the administration will permit, with that in countries where conditions are absolutely and fundamentally different.

"To come to the various heads of expenditure. The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose complains that too much is being spent on Colleges; while the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari considers that the sum allotted for Colleges is hopelessly inadequate. The former gentleman can hardly, I take it, intend to argue that Government should now repudiate the Universities Act and the University; and either leave Colleges to be disaffiliated wholesale or the University Regulations to be stultified and ignored. What the Government proposes to do is, to improve its own Colleges up to the standard that will reasonably meet the requirements of the University, and to assist by liberal grants-in-aid such private Colleges as show a *bonâ fide* desire, combined with practical efforts, to reach the same standard. It is possible that we may not be able to do all we could wish and all at once; but a practical standard is before us, and we shall do our best to secure its attainment.

"Before leaving this subject, I should like to say a word about the Presidency College. The Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari has practically accused the Government of breach of faith, in respect of the extension scheme, and talks of the Government being inviolably pledged and committed, by the proceedings of the Conference held at Belvedere on the 3rd of July last. Sir, I deprecate language of this nature; it is obvious that any decision of the Local Government must be subject to such approval of the higher authorities

[*Mr. Streatfeild.*]

as the rules may require, and must also be subject to financial exigencies. I am, however, glad to be able to inform the Hon'ble Member that the Government of India have sanctioned the expenditure, during the current year, of three lakhs of rupees, independently of budget provision, for the acquisition of land and for the commencement of the construction of a Physical Laboratory, in connection with the Presidency College. The land to be acquired has been practically settled, and once this has been done, the notification of which the Hon'ble Member complains will be withdrawn, as regards the rest of the area; and what the Hon'ble Member describes as disturbance of ordinary and inalienable rights, but what has really only amounted to the curbing for a few months of possible desire on the part of proprietors for the improvement of their property, will be put an end to.

"To pass to Secondary Schools. I have little to say on this subject, beyond admitting that both, as regards the maintenance of Government schools and the grants-in-aid to private schools, enough has not been done in the past. It is in the schools that the character of boys is formed; and the improvement of colleges can be of little practical value, until the standards and teaching in the schools have been correspondingly raised. A comprehensive scheme for the improvement of all schools, of this class, has recently been elaborated after the most careful deliberation. Its carrying out will be a matter of very heavy expense, but there is every reason to hope that means will be found for bringing very great reforms into effect.

"As regards Primary Education, I may point out that this branch of education has, ever since the introduction of the Local Self-Government Act, been in the hands of District Boards, where these bodies exist. No portion of the expenditure, incurred by these bodies on Education, comes from the District Fund, that is, from the Road Cess. The whole is met either by direct grants from Government or by the transfer to the Boards of revenue which were formerly provincial, such as Pounds and Ferries. I admit that I am unable to follow the facts and figures adduced by the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose, which have so startled him and which show Rs. 2,19,000 spent on 50 million of people.

"As far as I have been able to ascertain, the total expenditure on Primary Education, according to the Budget, will not be very far short of 20 lakhs of rupees; since, in addition to the direct expenditure from Provincial Funds by far the greater part of Rs. 11,59,000 spent on Educations by District Boards comes under this head. The Rs. 1,89,000, over which the Hon'ble Member waxes indignant, is the grant for non-board areas—only a very small fraction of the Province as a whole. I may also mention that the latest available figures show that 244 boys are receiving Primary Education, out of every one thousand males of a school-going age. These figures prove, I think, that the Hon'ble Member speaks unadvisedly, when he talks of fifty millions of people practically untouched by Education.

"One point, in particular, calls for remark. The argument that expenditure on *guru*-training schools is not, properly speaking, expenditure on Primary Education. I may say that I cannot understand this argument coming from any one with a real acquaintance with the subject. The incompetence of the *gurus* has notoriously been the one great obstacle to the progress of Primary Education in the past. The *guru* is, to all intents and purposes, the proprietor of the village-school; if he is competent, he draws pupils to him and gives them an education worth having; if he is incompetent, he reduces education in his village to a farce and by-word: and yet the Hon'ble Member argues that if you give him a cash grant-in-aid, you are helping the cause of Primary Education; but if, instead, you give him training and make him a competent teacher at the expense of Government, you are not.

"With regard to Female Education, there is little to be said. Progress is undoubtedly slow; but I must strenuously contest the assumption, that this is due to any unwillingness on the part of Government to provide funds. The Government is, and always has been, ready to assist any scheme, by which Female Education seems likely to be forwarded. Model primary schools for girls have been and are being started, and schemes for training female teachers

are being carefully considered; but the problem yet to be solved is how to induce women of the class required to come forward as teachers, and, above all things, how to persuade parents to send their girls to school.

"As regards Muhammadan Education, I have only to notice that the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad has overlooked the fact that, besides Rs. 1,080 for inspecting Maulvis and Rs. 3,420 for model *muktabs*, a provision of Rs. 16,250 has been made in the Budget for grants-in-aid to *muktabs*. He has also over-looked the fact that, besides Rs. 1,200 for Muhammadan Female Education in Patna, a school for Muhammadan girls at Bhagalpur has been provided for in the Budget; the initial cost being Rs. 1,000 and the annual recurring cost Rs. 2,256.

"And now I come to the very difficult and very important question of Technical and Industrial Education. We are all fully alive to the immense importance of assisting the commercial development of the country; but there is no branch of education in which there is greater scope for the fads and fetishes that the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari deprecates, or in which it is more difficult to arrive at the business footing to which he aspires. The proposals of this Government, for the appointment of a Special Technical Adviser to Government and for the opening of classes in Technological Chemistry have both been sent back by the higher authorities—the first, because the class of men we want is almost impossible to find; the second, because of doubts whether there is any real demand for the services of such students as the classes would turn out. I trust that these objections may be overcome; but they afford illustrations of the difficulty of evolving practical schemes and of persuading the higher authorities that such schemes are practical, and not likely to end in an extravagant fiasco.

"While on this subject, I hope that the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari will forgive me if I suggest that his proposals. for the opening of schools under the District Boards for weaving, carpentry and half-a-dozen other petty crafts, point rather to a laudable enthusiasm than to a profound knowledge of the subject. It is precisely schools of this kind with which experiments have been tried for many years past, and which have almost, without exception, proved abject failures. The difficulty of inducing those not accustomed to manual labour to take to it, or those accustomed to it to adopt new methods has hitherto proved an insuperable obstacle to success. The tendency noticed by the Hon'ble Mr. Larmour, of members of the Artisan class to bring their sons up to other employments, is also a melancholy fact which no training, unaccompanied by a change in the prevailing motives and spirit, can alter. And, after all, excellent as the encouragement of Artisans is, it can do practically nothing towards the commercial regeneration of the country. What is primarily required is, such an expansion of the business instinct, leading to joint stock industry, as will afford remunerative careers for the educated members of the community, apart from Government service and clerkships. This can only come with the growth of a spirit of enterprise and of mutual trust; and this again must be the outcome of a new spirit throughout the ordinary, or, to use the budget term which has puzzled the Hon'ble Member, 'General', schools, such as we hope will in due time result from the improvements now in contemplation. Technical or special schools may complete the good business man; but the ordinary schools must form him.

"Meanwhile, the Government will always consider with the greatest sympathy and will help, as far as circumstances permit, any scheme for the promotion of Technical and Industrial Education, which gives reasonable hope of practical success. Mr. J. G. Cumming is on special duty to bring the industrial survey of the Province up to date; and there is reason to hope that his suggestions will prove of great value. I have already alluded to the delay in the schemes for the appointment of a Technical Adviser to the Director of Public Instruction and for the opening of Technological Chemistry classes at Sibpur. The Weaving School at Serampore also remains unopened; the Principal appointed in England having, at the last moment, thrown up the appointment. The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose has made a serious grievance of the delay, in opening the graduate classes in Engineering at

[*Mr. Streatfeild.*]

Sibpur. I find, however, that the University is not prepared to examine for these degrees till 1911; and as a two years' course is involved, it is useless and impracticable to start these classes till 1909. The first intermediate examination in Engineering will be held in 1909. This course was opened in 1907, and those who are now reading the course and who succeed in passing the examination in 1909 will then be eligible to read the graduate course and not before.

"The Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad once more urges that the Bihar School of Engineering should be raised to the status of a College. I regret that I can only repeat, what has been said before, that Government is not prepared to consider the question, until the transfer of the Sibpur College to Ranchi has been completed and experience has shown how far the College on its new site will meet the requirements of Bihari students.

"The details of the six lakhs, provided in the budget, for Technical Education, for which Hon'ble Members have asked, are as follows:—

	Rs.
Sibpur College	3,27,700
Equipment for Sibpur College ...	40,600
B and C classes in High Schools	10,000
Calcutta School of Art	34,000
Government Art Gallery	3,000
Engineering and Survey Schools	43,000
Industrial Schools	12,000
Scholarships in Professional Colleges	50,480
Ditto in the School of Art	900
Ditto in Engineering and Survey Schools ...	4,632
Total ...	5,32,312

Adding Rs. 35,000, for the Serampore Weaving School, the total comes to Rs. 5,65,312, or 6 lakhs in round numbers.

"On the subject of Educational Establishments, there is not much that I need say. More than one Hon'ble Member has remarked unfavourably on the increase in the cost of the Directing and Inspecting Staff, as compared with the Teaching Staff. I must say I am surprised to find among the objectors the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari, who describes the condition of our aided schools as a lie, a falsehood, an immorality and a demoralizing scandal. I do not quarrel with his description; the condition of our schools in the Mufassal is a scandal—and to put an end to the scandal a strong, competent and independent Inspecting Staff is an absolute necessity. The Hon'ble Member complains of insufficient grants-in-aid, and appears to think that such grants-in-aid should be made independently of the condition and the methods of work of the school. This, of course, is out of the question—the grants-in-aid to Secondary Schools have, in the past, certainly been small, and it is hoped to increase them very largely in the future; but such increased help must be accompanied by closer inspection and strict insistence on a proper level of efficiency.

"At the same time, I can assure the Hon'ble Member that the claims of the Teaching Staff have not been overlooked. A general scheme for the improvement of Secondary Education has recently been elaborated which will, if brought into effect, cause an immense improvement in the position of the Teaching Staff, both in Government and in private schools. Moreover, the whole question of position of members, both of the Indian Educational Service and of the Provincial Educational Service, is under consideration. It is impossible to say, at the present time, what the precise result will be; but it is not improbable that, as regards the Provincial Educational Service, the improvement will take something of the form suggested, *viz.*, assimilation with the other Provincial Services. I can assure the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh, among other suggestions, that it is certain that the question of the promotion of selected members of the Provincial Educational Service, to the higher service, will receive the most careful and sympathetic consideration.

"As regards the inclusion of the cost of the Reformatory Schools in the Education Budget, I may inform the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari

that these schools are now Educational Institutions, pure and simple; the object of which is not the punishment of youthful criminals, but their reform by an intelligent system of training. They are entirely under the control of the Director of Public Instruction and have nothing to do with the Jails or the Police.

"As to Text-Books, I can only say that the matter has been settled after most careful consideration by experts, and cannot now be re-opened.

"The frequent transfers between the Inspecting and the Teaching Staff, to which the Hon'ble Member alludes, is admittedly undesirable; but has been inevitable, owing to the shortness of staff. There is reason to hope that, when the sanctioned staff is complete, these transfers will be reduced to a minimum.

"The purchase of the additional ground for a hostel and play-ground for the Darjeeling Zilla School was completed last year, and the expenditure does not, therefore, appear in this year's budget.

"I have nothing more to say, Sir, on the subject of Education, and must apologize for having detained the Council so long.

"The only other question, connected with the General Department with which I have to deal, is that of the inspection of the Septic Tanks connected with the riparian factories, raised by the Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur. This matter is receiving the attention of Government, and it is hoped that the regular inspection of these tanks, under the control of the Sanitary Commissioner, will very shortly be arranged for.

"As regards Judicial questions; the question of the reduction of Court-fees, in the Calcutta Small Cause Court, is receiving consideration; and it is hoped that some relief will soon be granted. The question of Honorary Benches, in this Court, is one on which Government is not prepared to express an opinion at present. I am unable to follow the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari into all the details of his championship of the Judicial branch of the Provincial Civil Service. I can only say that the Government is fully aware that the Officers of this Service have genuine grievances; that their case is receiving consideration, and that any reasonable proposals for the removal of hardships will always receive sympathetic attention. I must remind the Hon'ble Member, however, that several of the matters he alludes to fall within the province of the High Court, and that their discussion in this Council is altogether out of place.

"The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose complains of the additional provision, for the remuneration of the Government Solicitor. It is only necessary to explain that the whole of the increase is met by a grant from Imperial Funds; the only additional expense, imposed on the Local Government, being for the stationery and establishment of the Public Prosecutor, who is now separated from the Government Solicitor's office. The Assistant Secretary in the Legislative Council has become necessary, owing to the transfer to the Legislative Department of the work formerly done by the Government Solicitor.

"The Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari has alluded to the expenditure incurred on account of the new Presidency Jail, and has suggested, with regard to the removal of the old Jail, that the Government of Bengal was committed to this expenditure when the Victoria Memorial Scheme was inaugurated; and that, therefore, the Memorial Funds ought to bear some portion of the cost. I may point out that the Hon'ble Member's conclusions are based on a misapprehension of facts. The removal of the Presidency Jail, from its present site, was anyhow necessary, and, though the foundation of the Victoria Memorial Hall may have led to its removal a year or two earlier than would otherwise have been the case, there is no justification for his suggestion that, but for the existence of the Victoria Memorial Hall, the removal need not have taken place.

"The Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad once more complains of the inconvenience caused to parties by the late sittings of certain Judicial Officers. In this connection, I may say that, as long ago as 1873, it was laid down by Government that all officers were to take their seats at 11 A.M. The Government

[*Mr. Streatfeild*; *Mr. Gait.*]

consider it most important and desirable that this rule should be strictly complied with, and there is no reason to doubt that habitual unpunctuality, on the part of any officer, would be promptly corrected, if brought to the notice of his immediate superior. At the same time, the work in some Courts, especially in Sub-divisions, is so heavy that it is impossible for the officer, even if he attends office at the prescribed hour, to dispose of the day's work without sitting late; and, in cases such as these, it is impossible for the Government to interfere with the full discretion of the officers concerned, to make such arrangements as may be necessary to prevent their work from falling into arrears."

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT said:—"Your Honour—The bulk of the comments made by Hon'ble Members, regarding the branches of the Administration dealt with by the Chief Secretary, refer to the Police Department, and especially to the great increase in expenditure on that department which has taken place during the last three or four years. The comments which have been made are somewhat conflicting. One Hon'ble Member frankly congratulates Government on having done so much to improve the Police Force. Others, while admitting the necessity for increased expenditure, express dissatisfaction with the results; or complain that the money has been spent without the public being taken into the confidence of Government; or that the present time, when famine is threatening, is not a suitable one for such expenditure. Others, again, appear to regard the increased expenditure as wholly uncalled-for. One Hon'ble Member asks us if we consider the Police more valuable than Sanitation; and another suggests that it would have been far better if we had devoted the money thus spent to Education. The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose seems to think that the expenditure has grown on account of what he describes as 'rows by boys and boyish men who are taken too seriously by the Government and by the newspapers.' These comments, if I may venture to say so, indicate an imperfect appreciation of the facts and a curiously short memory.

"The additional expenditure on Police is not being incurred haphazard, nor on account of the supposed exigencies of the moment; but in accordance with a settled scheme, based on the recommendations of the Police Commission and approved by the Government of India. In the Report of the Police Commission, it was shown that the state of the Police was by no means satisfactory; that their standard of morality was low, and that bribery and corruption were common. The introduction of sweeping reforms was held to be a matter of urgent administrative necessity. It was pointed out by the Police Commission that the remedy lay partly in obtaining a better class of men to investigate offences and in giving constables a living wage, which they had not got before; and partly in the strengthening of the supervising staff. In accordance with these recommendations, it was decided to re-organize the cadre of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents, and to create a new class of Deputy Superintendents, at a total annual cost of four and a half lakhs. The number and pay of the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors was to be increased at a cost of nine lakhs, and that of Head Constables and Constables at a cost of ten lakhs. The intention of Government to carry out these reforms was made public at the time and met with general approval. There has been no secrecy about the matter. The increased expenditure, which has since been incurred, has been increased simply in pursuance of the policy then laid down, and I can only conclude from the criticisms which we have heard to-day, either that the above facts have been forgotten, or that the necessity for reforming the Police is no longer so clearly recognized as it was a few years ago. I may mention here that considerably more than two-thirds of the additional expenditure has been provided by special assignments made for the purpose by the Government of India.

"With reference to the complaint of some Hon'ble Members, that the results of the expenditure are disappointing, I may point out that the improvement must necessarily be gradual. New men can be introduced only

as the old ones retire, and it will be many years before the *personnel* of the entire force has been changed. The old class of Superintendents of the Calcutta Police, for instance, cannot be replaced by officers of the Provincial Police Service, until they are, one by one, superannuated. Not only is the number of new men still comparatively small, but they are most of them holding junior appointments. I am glad to notice that the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh admits that some, at least, of the new Sub-Inspectors are of a class very much superior to that from which these officers were formerly recruited. The Hon'ble Member is certainly right on this point. The Inspector-General of Police reports that a noticeably better standard of work is already being obtained from the officers appointed under the new system. I may add that much good is hoped from the creation of the new class of Deputy Superintendents, who will correspond in the Police Department to the Provincial Executive and Judicial Services. The men who have already been selected for these appointments are, on the whole, doing excellent work.

"Several Hon'ble Members have objected to the expenditure of two lakhs of rupees on the purchase of the Duff College in Calcutta, for the accommodation of certain police offices. The accommodation thus secured was urgently required. It has become increasingly difficult in Calcutta to obtain leases of houses for thanas. As the existing leases fall in, the owners enhance the rent. It was, therefore, proposed some time ago to acquire land for all the thanas in Calcutta. The idea was abandoned on account of the expense; but the desirablity was recognized of taking any opportunity that might from time to time arise of purchasing suitable accommodation.

"The Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal has provided for our delectation various dishes which have, if at all, a very faint financial flavour; and I am not altogether surprised to find that amongst them he has served up King Charles' Head—I mean the Calcutta Riots—and garnished it with the sauce of the 'Unofficial Commission,' of which he was a member. I hope I may be pardoned by the Hon'ble Member, if I decline to enter into a fresh discussion of this matter. The inquiry made by Mr. Weston showed clearly that the riots commenced with deliberate and organized attacks on the Police by comparatively respectable persons; that superior officers of the force, both European and Indian, conducted themselves with propriety and did their utmost to cope with the situation, and that the great bulk of the rank and file were always under control. The only matter of controversy is as to the extent to which individual subordinate members of the force took advantage of the confusion caused by the rioters to commit, or abet the commission of, offences against the person and against property. This, as I say, is a matter of controversy. The number of definite charges which stood the test of cross-examination was exceedingly small. Most of those that were made broke down altogether, so far as the alleged complicity of the Police was concerned. The circumstances were such as to render it difficult alike to prove and to disprove such allegations; and the extent to which they were well-founded must always remain a matter of opinion. The fact remains that this is a comparatively minor issue. No one pretends that every Constable is an angel; there are black sheep in every fold, and the natural result of the disorder, darkness and confusion, for which the Police were not responsible, was to give the black sheep in the lower ranks of the Calcutta Police their opportunity. The number of these black sheep was probably small; but disputes as to the exact number do not affect the main outstanding fact that the Police, as a body, behaved well under trying circumstances.

"The Hon'ble Member complains that, in Calcutta, Head Constables are still being sent out to investigate cases. I think there must be some misapprehension. Under standing orders, the investigation of all cases must be in the hands of an Inspector or Sub-Inspector. The Commissioner of Police assures me that this rule is duly observed. It was, however, never intended that the service of subordinate Police Officers should not be utilized to collect information which has a bearing on a case under investigation. They are constantly and necessarily deputed to collect information on

subsidiary points. Head Constables have still to be used in this way more freely than is desirable, as the full staff of Sub-Inspectors recommended by the Police Commission, has not yet been recruited and fully trained; but the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors are in all cases held directly responsible for the investigation of cases. Before a case goes to Court, the persons concerned in it, with the witnesses and exhibits, are taken before the Commissioner of Police and the facts are threshed out by him personally. Any serious dereliction of duty, on the part of the officer in charge of the case, would thus usually be detected. No doubt, it occasionally happens that a subordinate officer is given work to do which his superior ought to do himself, but the Commissioner of Police is always on the alert to put a stop to abuses of this kind.

"The same Hon'ble Member refers with regret to the halcyon days when the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation was the head of the City Police. In those days, there was, he says, close and intimate association between the Head of the Police and the leaders of the Community; and 'the Police treated people of all classes and sects with great forbearance, mildness courtesy and perfect civility.' While duly grateful to the Hon'ble Member for attributing such an utopian state of affairs to any period of British Rule, I cannot help feeling that his glowing tribute to the past perfections of the Police is due to his having had but little personal acquaintance with the old state of things. I may remind the Hon'ble Member that, originally, the office of Chairman was separate, as it is now, from that of Commissioner of Police. The functions were united in 1864, with the object of strengthening the hands of the Chairman and giving him greater executive authority than he had previously possessed. Experience, however, showed that the Chairman had not sufficient time to devote to his police duties. The direct control of the Police soon passed into the hands of the Deputy Commissioner. The nominal responsibility was with one officer; while the power was with another. The arrangement proved most unsatisfactory; and it was, therefore, after full consideration, abandoned and the old system was reverted to. I do not think any one has ever had reason to complain of the change, or of inaccessibility, or want of courtesy, on the part of the officers who have held the post of Commissioner of Police, since the office was separated from that of Chairman.

"The next complaint of the Hon'ble Member is, regarding the unsuitable character of some of the rooms in the Calcutta Police Court. Here, I am fain to admit, he is on firmer ground. The necessity for providing better accommodation, for certain Courts, has long been recognized. A scheme was prepared three years ago for the extension and improvement of the Central Police Station and Police Court, but the estimated cost was 45 lakhs of rupees. It was impossible to provide this large sum; and the project was, therefore, dropped. The Chief Presidency Magistrate has recently been informed that, if he can suggest improvements on a more reasonable scale, the matter will be sympathetically considered.

"I do not propose to reply at length to the remarks made by the Hon'ble Member, regarding the distribution of work between Stipendiary and Honorary Magistrates, as I dealt with this matter fully last year. It will suffice to say that while it is admitted that Honorary Magistrates have rendered, and still render, valuable services to Government and to the Public, there is no doubt that they are not the best agency for the trial of intricate cases, which cannot be disposed of at a single sitting. It is, for this reason, that they have been relieved of the necessity of trying such cases. The result is, that they are disposed of with greater despatch than was ever attained under the old system.

"I note, with much satisfaction, that the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari approves of the action which is being taken by this Government, in order to develop the Sea Fisheries of the Bay of Bengal. We hear a great deal of what are supposed to be our mistakes, but it is seldom that any one refers to the other side of the shield. The inquiries regarding the Fisheries of the Province, which are now being made, cannot fail to have the most

beneficial results. Of this, there is not the slightest doubt. The admirable reports, recently submitted by Mr. Gupta, show that there are immense possibilities in the way of increasing and developing our existing fish supply. This is a matter of the greatest importance in a country like Bengal, where such a large proportion of the population are dependent on a fish diet. Unfortunately for our fisheries Mr. Gupta is no longer available to continue the investigation; but it is to be hoped that his successor will bring to a satisfactory conclusion the work which he so ably began. Mr. Gupta has shown what is needed in the way of definite action and further investigation; and it remains for Mr. Ahmad to work earnestly and persistently along the lines thus indicated.

"I am glad also to notice the Hon'ble Member's commendation of the action which Government has already taken in the recent amendment of the Calcutta Police Act. The Committee appointed, by Your Honour, to consider another aspect of the same difficult question has recently submitted its report; and I hope that the necessary action will not be long delayed.

"The Hon'ble Member points out that the partition of the Provincial Judicial Service in Bengal and the new Province would be injurious to the interests of those Members of the Service who are posted to Eastern Bengal and Assam, unless special consideration is shown them. I can assure him that this point has not been overlooked.

"The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose, in his remarks regarding the abolition of the Statutory Civil Service, is referring to very ancient history. The decision to abolish that Service was arrived at nearly twenty years ago, in consequence of the recommendations made by the Public Service Commission. The appointments of Magistrate and Collector and District and Sessions Judge, formerly held by Members of the Statutory Service, are now held by Officers promoted from the Provincial Executive and Judicial Services. The Hon'ble Member's remarks, on the subject of Police expenditure, have already been dealt with.

"The Hon'ble Mr. Sutherland asks whether it is necessary, in the present state of our finances, to spend money on an Agricultural College at Sabaur, in view of the fact that Pusa is situated within the limits of this Province? I may explain that the work contemplated at the two Colleges is of a very different character. Pusa is an Imporial Research Station, where higher post-graduate training in Agricultural Science will be undertaken for the whole of India. The institution does not provide for elementary training in Agriculture. Each Province is expected to supply its own elementary teaching, and to arrange for the training of its own subordinate Agricultural Staff. This Agricultural Staff is needed in order to bring home to the agriculturists the improvements and developments which our experiments and inquiries may show to be practicable, and to impart to them the knowledge which they will gain at the College.

"The Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, refers to the importance of disseminating agricultural information amongst the masses of the people, and makes several suggestions of a practical nature. The Agricultural Department in Bengal is still in its infancy; but I may inform the Hon'ble Member that the scheme, for its organization, includes provision for a demonstration farm in each district and a large experimental station in each Division. There is already an Inspector of Agriculture, attached to each Divisional Agricultural Association. His services are at the disposal of the District Associations, and can be made use of by the gentlemen belonging to these Associations, who are interested in agriculture and wish to obtain his assistance or advice. The great difficulty at present felt is the want of suitable men for appointments of this kind. A scheme has been prepared for the organization of a trained Agricultural Service, but it has not yet been sanctioned; and, in any case, it can only be introduced gradually, as suitable men are trained up. It is no use appointing men who do not possess the necessary qualifications. The Government sympathises most fully with all that the Hon'ble Member has said regarding the immense importance of doing everything possible to foster

agriculture. The progress is certainly slow, but I claim that it is steady. The suggestions which the Hon'ble Member has made will be communicated to the Director of Agriculture, by whom they will be fully and carefully considered.

"The Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad asks Government to provide big wells, with water-lifting machines, for irrigation purposes. The Hon'ble Mr. Inglis has explained how impossible it is for the Irrigation Department to attempt to provide well-irrigation. The matter is essentially one for the people themselves. I may remind the Hon'ble Member that Government does all in its power to encourage this form of irrigation, by making liberal *takavi* advances. I think, I may safely say, that no raiyat who wishes to make a well, and can give the necessary security, is ever refused a loan for the purpose. As a further encouragement to the people, steps are being taken to provide an expert Well-borer. An Overseer of the Public Works Department has been selected for this post and is now being trained in the United Provinces. He is expected to join at Bankipur some time this month. He will be given twelve assistants. His services will be available to make trial borings wherever desired, and to give expert advice to the people concerning the sinking and construction of wells.

"The Hon'ble Maharaja of Burdwan asks Government to legislate with a view to the protection of Pasture Lands. This is a very thorny question. The greater part of Bengal is permanently-settled, and it would be difficult to interfere with the discretion of the zamindars in such a matter. The feasibility of taking action of some kind has been considered on various occasions; but the idea has always been dropped. In the temporarily-settled parts of Orissa, however, lands have been set apart for grazing purposes in each village; and orders have been passed that these lands are not to be appropriated for other purposes. Similar measures have been taken in the principal Government Estates, *e g*, those of Palamau and the Kolhan.

"The Hon'ble the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad complains that a provision of only Rs. 1,56,000 has been made for expenditure on Famine Relief in the year 1908-1909, and expresses the opinion that this amount is not sufficient. A similar opinion is expressed by the Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad. I may explain that the figure quoted, by the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur, represents only the share which this Government will have to bear. The total expenditure on Famine Relief next year, is estimated at ten lakhs of rupees. Under the arrangements recently made by the Government of India, the bulk of it will be debited to Imperial Funds. I may add that the ten lakhs above mentioned have been allotted for actual Famine Relief. In addition, provision has been made for Agricultural and Land Improvement Loans, up to a total of 22 lakhs. Provision has also been made for suspensions of land-revenue in Government Estates, aggregating Rs. 2,75,000. It is hoped that the provision thus made will be adequate.

"Our latest information goes to show that there has been a general improvement in the Agricultural situation, since the estimates were last revised. Hazaribagh is the only district in which the situation seems to have changed for the worse. The forecast of the rabi crops, which is prepared after local inquiry in each district and thana in the Province, shows that the total area under rabi is about three quarters of the average, and that about 70 *per cent.* of the normal outturn may be expected. The outturn is estimated at less than half the average only in three districts of the Presidency Division.

"The mango crop, which is of much importance in a year of scarcity, is promising well; and so also is the mahua on which the aboriginal tribes in and around Chota Nagpur so greatly depend, even in ordinary years. Gratuitous relief or test works, or both, have been started in seven districts and the operations may extend to one or two other districts later on. A peculiar feature of the present situation is, the way in which the ordinary demand for labour is being maintained. Difficulty is being experienced, in some parts, in getting the labour required for ordinary road-repairs at the usual rates. This is due largely to the great industrial development which has taken place in Calcutta and the neighbourhood, and in the coal-mines of Jheria and Raniganj. The

result is, that in many parts the test works which have been opened have been very poorly attended. The able-bodied have gone elsewhere, leaving their dependants more or less unprovided for. The number of persons attending test-works does not afford the same index to the distress which exists, as it did on former occasions; and we find ourselves obliged to given gratuitous relief on a scale quite out of proportion to that indicated by the attendance of labourers on test-works. Government aid, however, is unable to touch many of those who are suffering most from the present high prices—I mean the respectable poor who will not accept State relief; and who, if they are to be helped at all, must be helped by non-official agency. It is to be hoped, for their sakes, that the charitable public will contribute freely to the Famine Fund, which has recently been opened by His Excellency the Viceroy."

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON said:—"Several Hon'ble Members have drawn attention to the increase in receipts from Income-tax. Two Hon'ble Members say that assessing officers in their zeal to show improvements of collections, over those of preceding years, cause hardship to assessees.

"In reply, I would say that the increase in receipts last year and estimated for the new year is due to extended facilities of communication and rapid growth of trade and commercial prosperity, chiefly in the City of Calcutta, where two-thirds of the tax realized in the Province are collected; and especially to the prosperity of the jute and coal businesses and the banking business. It is conceded that assessors are sometimes over-zealous in assessment; but, as far as the Board of Revenue can judge, there is improvement in this matter and diminishing cause for objections.

"With regard to the suggestion made by an Hon'ble Member to the effect that Residential Houses should be exempted from Income-tax, I can only at present say that this question was much discussed in the Imperial Council, when the present law was enacted. Section 24 of the Act of 1886 declares that, a building occupied by its owners shall be deemed a source of income; and assessment of such a house is required at $\frac{5}{6}$ths of the gross annual rent at which it may be reasonably expected to let. I take it that a dwelling-house is held to be a source of income, because it saves the person dwelling therein from payment of house-rent.

"The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose draws attention to the fines imposed for illicit manufacture of Salt, and asks that such fines may be separately shown in the Budget. He says that the Salt Laws are oppressively enforced on the sea-coasts of Bengal and Orissa, and that people would be glad to pay an additional Cess, if they might be allowed to manufacture salt for their own consumption from the sea-water at their doors. The fines, for illicit manufacture, are shown in the Annual Administration Reports on Salt. In 1905-1906, the fines and forfeitures imposed under the Salt Laws in the Sea-coast districts amounted to Rs. 1,191, and in 1906-1907 to Rs. 1,391, levied from 198 convicted persons. These were not heavy punishments.

"With regard to the question of permitting manufacture for home consumption, the Hon'ble Member put a question in this Council last year and he has put another question today. I have nothing to add to the two answers which have been given on this subject, except to say that I have had no information and no complaint that the Salt Laws are harshly administered on our coasts.

"Under the head of 'Excise' the Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad deplores the fact that Government is under the necessity of accepting revenue from the liquor traffic. To this it must be answered that, short of prohibition, the most effective check of consumption of drink and drugs is the levy of a large duty, such as will increase the cost of the drink, or the drug, to the consumer. It is in this view, that all civilized nations impose a tax on liquors. The increase of excise revenue in Bengal, to which several speakers have drawn attention, is due not only to increasing population, opening up of the country by communications, greater employment of labour in the jute, coal, lac and mica businesses and higher wages, but also to more efficient excise establishments, the repression of illicit practices and consequent increase of illicit consumption and enhanced

taxation by duty and license fees. The still-head duty on liquor has been increased in many districts of the Province, and will be raised this year in Calcutta to Rs. 5-10 for a London-proof gallon, the highest rate yet imposed. The duty on excise opium has been enhanced in the Orissa districts, and a uniform rate of duty is now levied on all kinds of *ganja*.

"Next, as to the action taken in removal of liquor shops from objectionable sites. An Hon'ble Member has said that there has been lamentable disregard of the avowed policy of Government in this respect. Much, however, has been recently done in the direction indicated, and it has been laid down that when a liquor shop has been removed, on account of objections and afterwards a market or public institution is established near the new site, the liquor shop must again be removed, if necessary.

"The Hon'ble Member, who represents the Municipalities in Chota Nagpur and Orissa, asked whether any outstills had been removed from objectionable sites in districts of Chota Nagpur, other than Manbhum? The answer is, that, in Hazaribagh last year, 12 outstills near markets were removed, and this year 30 more are to be moved. In Ranchi last year, 23 outstills were moved, and one was abolished; and this year 32 outstills are to be moved and 7 have been abolished. A distillery area is to be established this year in Ranchi. In Palamau and Singhbhum, smaller reductions have been made. Outside the Chota Nagpur Division, I need only refer to the district of Sambalpur, where last year the number of outstills, including branch shops, was reduced by 40 shops; it is to be further decreased this year by 20 shops. These figures will suffice to show that earnest officers have made real efforts to carry out the Government policy of decreasing temptations of strong drink.

"As an instance of the continuous efforts made to reduce the number of liquor shops, I would again cite the case of the Ranchi District. The Board recently reported to Government that in this district, which formerly included Palamau, there were 35 years ago three times as many outstills as there are at present. The Excise Revenue was then only one-eighth of the present revenue. We do not say that there has not been increase of consumption of liquor in Ranchi; but it has been in spite of the reduction of the number of liquor shops and in spite of increased taxation of liquor.

"The contract distillery system was extended during last year to ten districts and is now in force in 18 of the 34 districts of the Province. The introduction of this system has involved the abolition of 242 outstills.

"The Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad would provide that no intoxicating liquor or drug should be sold to women, or to children under the age of 16 years. The Indian Excise Committee recommended, and the Government of India agreed, that there should be no general prohibition of sale to women. Prohibition of sale to women in shops might result in worse expedients, or in use of worse intoxicants. It is proposed, however, to take power to prohibit sales to particular classes of persons in special areas. The sale to children, below 12, (1) of liquor at outstills and (2) of opium, has long been prohibited in Bengal; and last year the prohibition was extended to all sales of liquor and drugs to children under 14 years. Fourteen years is the limit of age which has been commonly accepted as appropriate; though some temperance advocates would go so far as to prohibit sale to persons under 21.

"The Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad says that it is strange that a rate has not been fixed by Government for the sale of liquor by the shop keepers, and that Government should at least fix the minimum price of the liquor to be sold at the shops. This is a difficult subject which has been much discussed. Maximum prices for liquor have been fixed for all contract distillery areas and for some of the rural distillery areas in Bihar and the Sonthal Parganas. This step has been held to be necessary, to prevent development of monopoly prices. Minimum prices for liquor were in force for some years, both in the case of distillery spirit and outstill spirit, but the arrangement was abolished on the ground that it involved excessive interference and that it could not be efficiently carried out. The Indian Excise Committee have reported in favour

of minimum prices and the Government of India recommend that minimum prices should be prescribed in distillery areas, in order to prevent reckless competition and to deter shop-keepers from undue efforts to clear off stocks towards the close of the currency of their licenses. The Board of Revenue have just received proposals on this subject from the Excise Commissioner.

"The same Hon'ble Member has said that he does not see how Government can reasonably oppose the principle of local option. Since the discussion of 1904, to which the Hon'ble Member has referred, the Indian Excise Committee of 1905-06 have reiterated the opinion that local option, in the sense in which the term is generally understood, is impracticable in India; and the Government of India have added that it is impossible for Government to lay aside its responsibilities for fixing, whether by itself or through its officers, the number and sites of liquor shops. The Government, however, will be glad to see local opinion consulted more systematically and reported more definitely than at present. This subject is dealt with in the Bengal Excise Bill.

"The Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari says that the public are looking for some pronouncement, regarding the Bengal Excise Bill. I may be permitted to state that, on receipt last year of the criticisms of the Indian Excise Committee on the Bengal Bill of 1904, a revised Bill was prepared and submitted to the Government of India last January. The orders of the Government of India are awaited.

"The same Hon'ble Member refers to the recent inquiry of the Committee appointed to inquire into licensing of liquor shops in Calcutta, and he states that the evidence placed before this Committee revealed the unsatisfactory character of the present Excise Administration. He says that excessive facilities for drinking are given in Calcutta, on no apparent principle and without local consideration. I have to state that the report of the Calcutta Committee, on the licensing of liquor shops in Calcutta, has been recently submitted to Your Honour's Government; and I am in hopes that Your Honour will be in a position to pass orders on it within a few days and to give effect to some valuable suggestions which it contains. In anticipation of Your Honour's orders, I may say that the Excise Authorities in Calcutta may, at least, take credit for the fact that there are fewer country spirit shops in this City than in the other great Cities of India; and also for the fact that, so far from any increase having been made in the number of country spirit shops, Calcutta proper has to-day fewer such shops than it had 40 years ago, in spite of the large increase of population."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—With your permission, Sir, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Members for the manner in which they have received this 'adversity' budget, as one has called it, and for many suggestions so frankly expressed. One of the most gratifying features, perhaps, of to-day's debate is that despite the great length of some of the speeches, the vehemence of another, and the numerous criticisms made in regard to minor matters, no really serious objection has been raised to the budget estimates laid on the table a fortnight ago. While most of the Hon'ble Members have very kindly sympathised with me in having no surplus funds to distribute and in having, on the contrary, to face a situation requiring rigid economy and vigorous retrenchment where possible, several of them, when strongly advocating measures involving increased expenditure, appear to have overlooked for the moment the reasons that prompted the expression of condolence.

"Most of the questions raised have already been dealt with by my Hon'ble colleagues. It will be convenient, perhaps, at this late hour, if I deal in the fewest possible words with the remaining points which concern more exclusively the departments under my administrative control, subject by subject, and not according to the order in which the several gentlemen have spoken.

"In the first place, several Members have referred to the form in which the Financial Statement has been presented: some appear to be satisfied with it; others disappointed that the form has not been altered. The Hon'ble Babus Radha Charan Pal and Kali Pada Ghosh seem from their remarks

to have had some difficulty in understanding its arrangement. I am sorry I am unable to accept the responsibility for this. Had they applied to me, I would have been most pleased to explain any point to them. I must, however, make it clear to the Hon'ble Members that the form in which the accounts are presented does not depend upon the caprice of the Financial Secretary: the form is laid down by higher authority. The Hon'ble Members will readily understand that it is most essential in respect of accounts that a uniform system should be adopted for all Provinces. One Hon'ble Member has made some pertinent observations on the form in which the Education figures are shown. The inconvenience of the arrangement had attracted our attention when compiling information for another Member; and I shall take the matter up during the current year and see if the Controller-General will agree to certain proposals which will, perhaps, make for convenience of consideration. It would probably be helpful, for instance, if the expenditure on primary, secondary, higher and technical education were separately classed.

"In reply to one of the points raised by the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari, I would point out that when a grant is made by the Imperial Government to Provincial, it becomes merged in the Provincial funds, and there is nothing incorrect in what was said by me on the 21st ultimo, as he seems to suppose. The system of showing under the Education head expenditure falling under 'Local' separately from expenditure under 'Provincial' is a custom that has been followed for many years, as he will see by reference to previous Financial Statements. The complaint, however, which this Hon'ble Member has made towards the end of his speech that he is unable to understand why Budget provision should be made for what has already been decided upon and ordered is one that I find it more difficult to deal with, as coming from a gentleman who has made an elaborate criticism of the Financial Statement. The fact that a vessel has been already ordered and that it is on its way out does not, unfortunately, absolve the purchaser from the responsibility of paying for it!

"The Hon'ble the Nawab Bahadur has expressed surprise that the receipts under Land-revenue have been estimated at five lakhs more than the figures shown in the revised estimate for 1907-08. The estimate of gross receipts, however, includes recoveries on account of the cost of surveys. Moreover, there has been a considerable decrease in the revised estimate for 1907-08, owing to suspensions and remissions. The net result is that the estimate shows an increase of only Rs. 13,000 over the actuals of 1906-07.

"One of the most remarkable features of the remarks made by certain Hon'ble Members to-day is that while on one hand they are clamorous for largely increased expenditure on certain objects which they have particularly at heart, they equally strongly deprecate increase of income under what are some of our main expandable heads of revenue. If increase in receipts is to be checked, expenditure cannot rise. In view of certain of the remarks made more especially in regard to Education, I may be excused, then, Sir, if I mention that the Financial Secretary has to consider the income and expenditure of the Province as a whole; and if any one department proposes so large an increase of expenditure that, if accepted, it would involve curtailing the ordinary and essential expenditure of other departments, it is the duty of the Financial Department to press for a more equitable distribution. I have explained on a previous occasion that Education, in view of the very considerations which have been iterated to-day, has already received, and is receiving, exceptional treatment as compared with other departments.

"The Hon'ble Member of the Board has dealt with the remarks made in respect of Excise and Salt. The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur and also some other Hon'ble Members appear to be under a wrong impression as regards the effect of the Budget estimates under assessed taxes on the work of the local officers; and as the fallacy underlying the remarks might, if unchallenged, give rise to serious misconception, I ought, I think, to point out that the remarks

made in this connexion are evidently due to a complete misapprehension. The local officers do not even know what the Government estimates for their districts are. The Government estimate of receipts is made up for the Province as a whole, and is not split up district by district. As a matter of fact, the estimates being cautiously framed are generally considerably less than the actual receipts, so that if the local officers were influenced at all by the Government estimate, this influence would be in the direction of making them keep down rather than raise receipts. Your Honour's Council will, no doubt, have observed how very anxious certain of the Hon'ble Members are to throw the whole responsibility of any increase in the receipts from this tax upon the shoulders of the assessing officers: there is no hint of a suggestion that perhaps the circumstances of some of the assessees might have actually improved. They start apparently with the assumption that this is not possible; how far such an assumption is correct will be known to those Members of this Council who have served most of their time in the districts.

"Several Hon'ble Members have recommended the extension of the grant of compensation for dearness of provisions to officers drawing pay of more than Rs. 30 *per mensem*. So far the Government of India have only authorized us to grant compensation up to this limit. The question is really one of funds. As it is, the expenditure on this account, with the existing limit, has been so heavy as to seriously cripple the provincial resources, and the Government of India have been unable hitherto to hold out any promise of assistance in this direction. This Government has not been deaf to the suggestions made in this connection; and the possibility of extending the limit when the Provincial finances are in a better position will not be lost sight of. The Hon'ble Members have, no doubt, noticed in last week's Gazette of India the statement made in reply to a remark made by Your Honour on this subject by the Hon'ble Finance Member in His Excellency's Council, which were not, I think, published at the time in the daily papers. The Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh has expressed disappointment that the provision made for the current year is less than the revised estimate for last year. I may say in regard to this that the allowances for the last quarter of 1906-07 were in some cases not drawn during that year, and thus swelled the figures for 1907-08.

"Many of the Hon'ble Members have referred to the question of expenditure on sanitary improvements, chiefly in connection with the promised grant of 4½ lakhs from the Imperial Government. No separate orders have yet been received from the Government of India in regard to the manner in which this grant is to be spent, and therefore no definite scheme has yet been drawn up as to how the money should be allotted; but it will be seen from the remarks made by the Hon'ble Finance Member in the Imperial Financial Statement that it is intended that the money should be devoted to sanitary measures with special reference to the prevention of plague. The Government has done much of recent years to assist local bodies in undertaking measures of sanitary improvement. The resources of District Boards have also been largely augmented by grants equivalent to about 25 *per cent.* of the collections from the Public Work Cess; and these bodies may properly be expected to devote a portion of this income to local sanitation. As stated in this room on a recent occasion, the Government of India have also accorded their sanction to the introduction in this Council of certain provisions relating to sanitation in the Bill to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act. These provisions, if passed, will give local committees power to undertake works of sanitation and to raise funds for the purpose by permissive local taxation.

"Rather than agree in the remark of the Hon'ble the Nawab Bahadur as to the inadequacy of the grant made by the Imperial Government, I think we should welcome the assignment as a very generous one in view of the existing famine conditions. The grant, I may say for the information of this and other Hon'ble Members, is a recurring one. The Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal has seized the opportunity to claim a portion of the grant for the Calcutta Corporation. As I have already stated, nothing can yet be said as to

how the money will be allotted; but I may point out that while the average annual death rate *per mille* from plague during the past five years has been only 6·24 in Calcutta, it has ranged between 20 and 26 *per mille* in several of the large towns in the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions, where the local authorities have not the same means to carry out measures of prevention and protection. To the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Kishori Lal Goswami's demand for a large share towards a filtered water-supply installation for the riparian municipalities, a somewhat similar reply must be given at present: the Hon'ble Member perhaps does not fully realize the enormous cost that such a comprehensive scheme would involve. Several Hon'ble Members have urged the importance of taking action towards the prevention of the spread of malaria. Government is in full sympathy with them in this matter. Two important proposals were made by the special Drainage Committee, *viz.*, (1) the appointment of special officers to conduct inquiry of a systematic and organized character into the prevalence of malaria and the conditions governing the distribution of the disease that may afford a basis for remedial action, and (2) the creation of a special engineering division, charged with the examination of the drainage conditions of specified areas and the preparation of projects for their improvement where necessary. A reference was made to the Government of India on both these points. That Government have approved of the first proposal, but they have been unable so far to provide an Indian Medical Service Officer for the purpose. As to the second proposal, orders have not yet been received. In the hope, however, that both the projects will be started during the current year a provision of Rs. 30,000 has been made in the budget. Certain other minor proposals of the Committee are also being given effect to. A sum of Rs. 10,000 has, further, been provided for the continuance of the special anti-malarial measures which are being carried out at Ranaghat, North Barrackpore and Mahespur. Steps have also been taken for the wider distribution of quinine as a preventive for malaria.

"The Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad has again raised the question of a scheme for water-supply at Patna. The answer given only the other day to a question on this subject put by him in this Council stated the facts correctly. The report referred to by him is in the possession of Government. The most recent estimate which has been framed by the professional advise to Government in these matters amounts, as already stated, to about Rs. 20,00,000, and the maintenance charges have been estimated at Rs. 40,000 *per annum*. I may, perhaps, remind the Hon'ble Member, in this connection, of the question of the installation of another pumping station in that city. Although Government has provided an allotment of Rs. 50,000, and the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga has generously promised another Rs. 50,000, the local authorities have been unable to raise even the small non-recurring sum of Rs. 10,000 which is the balance required to carry out this much-needed project. If this be so, how can they possibly be expected to provide the recurring maintenance charges of the water-works scheme, even were the amount required for the initial capital outlay forthcoming?

"Government will be very glad to see the scheme for a central hospital at Burdwan carried out. Negotiations regarding the disposal of the present site of the hospital have not yet been concluded; but if the site be disposed of, the sale proceeds together with the very liberal donation promised by the Maharaj-Adhiraj, will doubtless provide sufficient funds for such portion of the work as could be carried out in the course of the current year. Government will try to give further assistance when the financial condition sufficiently improves.

"The Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal remarks that no provision has been made in the budget for increasing the salaries of Civil Assistant Surgeons. It is not the custom to make budget provision for any scheme before it has even been considered by Government. The proposals of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospital, in connection with the memorials received by him from certain Assistant Surgeons have only been received by Government three or four days ago. As already stated by me at the last meeting of this Council, these proposals will receive full consideration at the hands of Government. The

ultimate decision in such a matter, as my hon'ble friend probably knows, will not rest with this Government. It is a question that concerns other Provinces also, and if the Supreme Government decide that improvement in the pay and prospects of the service is necessary, a reference to the Secretary of State will be required.

"This Government shares the regret of the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh that final orders have not yet been issued on the recommendations made by the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee. Certain further information has recently been called for by the Supreme Government, and endeavour is being made to supply this as soon as possible. Meanwhile, as explained once before in this Council, provisional increases of pay in the shape of personal allowances have been sanctioned with effect from November, 1905, for a large number of officers pending the disposal of the matter.

"The Hon'ble Mr. Larmour has suggested that attention should be given to the provision of quarters for the poorer classes of Government servants in Calcutta. It is not, however, in respect of this class of officers that administrative difficulties have arisen, as they do not ordinarily occupy the class of houses, the rents of which have so rapidly increased of recent years. Most of these officers in fact are either residents of the town or its suburbs and live in their own houses or have been recruited directly for Calcutta appointments.

"In reply to the remarks made by the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose as to the inadequacy of the grants made to District Boards in aid of their expenditure on Education, Medical, etc., I would invite his attention to paragraph 12 of the Financial Statement, from which it will be seen that the grant of Rs. 5,51,000 is a net grant, *i.e.*, it is over and above the receipts from ferries, pounds, etc., which were made over to the District Boards on the introduction of the Local Self Government Act, and which amount to more than 4 lakhs; I may take this opportunity of mentioning that during the past week the Government of India have sanctioned the inclusion in the Bill for the amendment of Local Self-Government Act of the provisions proposed by this Government with the object of ear-marking the road cess and prohibiting its diversion to purposes other than those enumerated in section 109 of the Cess Act.

"It is doubtful whether there is any necessity to load the Financial Statement with all the details of expenditure on Civil Works suggested by the Hon'ble Babu Kishori Lal Goswami. Much information is already given. I shall, however, be glad to consider, in consultation with the Secretary in the Public Works Department, any proposals that are calculated to show the actual expenditure on particular works during the preceding year, as compared with budget provision, which can be ascertained without laying an excessive increase of work upon the office staffs at a season when the strain is already severe.

"The Hon'ble Mr. Sutherland has asked whether more money cannot be expended on roads in the mufassal. The answer is: 'Yes more money could be expended if it were available.' The object is: undoubtedly a worthy one, and Government would be glad if it could see its way to making a larger allotment for this purpose, though it may not be possible in the circumstances of this Province, to work up to the Ceylon standard of excellence. The bulk of the expenditure on the construction and repairs of roads in the mufassal is borne by the District Board Funds. The average annual expenditure incurred by the District Boards during the last ten years on communications has been Rs. 24,58,000. The provision for communications in the Provincial budget is only in respect of trunk and other Provincial roads. During the past ten years the average expenditure on original works and repairs in respect of such communications has been Rs. 11,17,000, excluding the proportionate charges for establishment, tools and plant; and the grant for the current year is Rs. 12,14,000. Besides this allotment, the budget includes grants of 10 lakhs in aid of District Funds. These special grants are chiefly spent on communications. We were unable to make any

further provision this year. The same Hon'ble Member has referred to the remarks he made in this Council seven years ago regarding the want of a second lung for Calcutta in the form of a Maidan towards Tollyganj. It is understood that considerable open space has already been secured at Tollygang through the exertions of the local clubs. While entirely sympathizing with the Hon'ble Member in the view he takes, it is a project, I think, that should in the first instance be taken up by the Corporation or be commended to private munificence.

"Some four Hon'ble Members have referred to the question of investing the sum of Rs. 50,00,000 set apart by the Government of India towards the Calcutta Improvement Scheme. This money cannot be invested without the specific orders of the Government of India; and in view of the announcement made by the Hon'ble the Home Member in His Excellency's Council on the 27th ultimo, it is not probable that the Government of India will consent to such investment at this stage. As to the scheme itself, this Government has no further information as to the stage at which it now rests than what was contained in the announcement made by the Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson in the Imperial Council on the 27th ultimo. There must, however, be many difficult questions of taxation and legislation to decide before the scheme can be actually taken in hand. I would remind the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal that the public were consulted on the principles of the scheme.

"The Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal has made several remarks on the subject of the Calcutta Corporation. The Hon'ble Sir Charles Allen has referred to certain points on which I need not touch further. The question of Decentralization referred to was dropped so long ago as 1905. Government has nothing to add to what has already been said as to the amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act. The question of Court-fees in municipal appeal cases is under the consideration of Government. I wish, however, to say that I am greatly surprised that the Hon'ble Member should have referred in this Council to Your Honour's remarks on the subject of the conversion of the intermittent water-supply into constant-supply within the town proper. The Hon'ble Member, who is himself a prominent Member of the Corporation, is probably, or ought to be, fully aware that this remark was based upon the statement made by the Chairman himself, as explained this afternoon by Sir Charles Allen in his Administration Report, a statement that is indisputable and that was not taken exception to by the special committee appointed by the Corporation to review the report. The Hon'ble Member must also fully understand the technical meaning of the term 'constant supply' —which is not a new one—in contradistinction to the term 'intermittent supply.'

"I now come—and this is the last subject I need touch upon— to the complaint made by the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose to the effect that the budget shows that while stationery purchased in this country is worth Rs. 37,000, stationery obtained from foreign countries is worth Rs. 6,68,000. I am sorry he should have given publicity to this statement without further inquiry. The provision of Rs. 37,000 is for the purchase of stationery by the several departments direct from the local market; while the provision of Rs. 6,68,000 is for the value of stores supplied by the Stationery Department. Most of these stores are obtained in India. In 1906-07, for instance, the last year for which figures are available, stores to the value of Rs. 5,20,000 were purchased in this country. There is no increase of two lakhs in the estimate under Stationery. The only marked increase was in the revised figures of 1907-08, and this was due to quite unavoidable causes."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"Gentlemen—We are now coming to the close of a long discussion, in the course of which many subjects have been considered. My hon'ble friend, Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose, has courteously acknowledged the great disinclination which I have had, throughout my whole tenure of office, to limit the discretion of Hon'ble Members in their budget speeches, or to stop them when they came to discuss irrelevant matters. I have always felt that it is very desirable to allow

Hon'ble Members as much freedom as possible, in the exercise of their right of interpellation, and in the speeches that they make in the Budget debate. I attach great importance to frankness of interpellation, inasmuch as it enables us to know something of the views of Hon'ble Members, and to make explanations which it is desirable to make. And in the same way, I welcome frank discussion of administrative measures and questions of general policy in the Budget debate I do not consider that, as the business of this Council is at present conducted, the Budget debate should be limited to matters clearly and manifestly relevant to the Budget. There are, however, certain matters which are so clearly irrelevant that they ought not to be discussed in this Council at all. I have not stopped Hon'ble Members to-day; because, on the one hand, I have considered that the remarks they have made on such subjects have been generally made without thought of their irrelevance; and because, on the other hand, it generally tends to save time to allow a man to state his case in his own way. I may, however, indicate some of the subjects which, I think, may well be omitted from a discussion in this Council. By doing so, I may, perhaps, prevent Hon'ble Members from discussing such subjects in future; and, in any case, by doing so I shall make clear to Hon'ble Members why I do not deal with certain questions which they have raised.

"Among these questions are such as the following. It is surely unnecessary to emphasize the absolute irrelevance of matters connected with the Government and Administration of another Province, which were referred to by the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari. It is not relevant here to criticise the constitution of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Council. There are also certain matters connected with the administration of the Corporation of Calcutta, in respect of which it is perfectly easy to obtain information by questions or discussion in the Corporation itself. We are not unconcerned with the affairs of the Corporation of Calcutta; but the questions I refer to irrelevant, not only to the Budget discussion in this Council but also the whole work of the Council itself. The Budget of this Government contains no reference to such matters; for it is not the duty of Government to finance, or to accept responsibility for, them; and the Council itself has really no concern with them. Then, again, there have been brought before us to-day certain judicial matters, with which it is clear that neither the Government nor the Council has any concern. We should go out of our way altogether, for example, if we were to deal here with any individual case of unwise or improper procedure on the part of any Judicial Officer, the natural remedy for which is to bring it to the notice of that officer's judicial superiors. Similarly, we have no concern with matters which are entirely at the discretion of the High Court. This not only refers to the work of the High Court, as illustrated, for example, in the confidential reports on judicial officers, but also to the ministerial establishment of the High Court, in respect of which no action can be expected, until the Hon'ble Judges move the Government when necessity arises. Another class of subjects irrelevant in discussions here, are those which are entirely under the control of the Government of India. Criticism of Imperial taxation is a very suitable subject for discussion in the Council of His Excellency the Viceroy; but it is neither relevant nor useful in this Council.

"As I have said, these observations will explain why certain questions raised by Hon'ble Members, in the course of their speeches, have not been discussed by the Officers of this Government, and will not be discussed by me. I may now add, by way of further explanation, that a very large number of the questions, which have been raised in the speeches of Hon'ble Members, have been fully dealt with in the speeches of the Officers of this Government, and do not therefore require special attention from me. I shall confine myself to only a few points; and Hon'ble Members will not misunderstand my refraining from the discussion of many even of the interesting and important points which they have raised.

"Several Members have spoken of the advantages which have been gained by the discussions of the Provincial Budget by the Members of the Board

and Secretaries to Government with certain non-official Members. I think that there has been some indication that certain Hon'ble Members have forgotten, that these discussions are of a confidential character. I do not know that there has been anything said which one has much cause to regret; but, at the same time, I think it is well that the confidential character of these discussions should be carefully borne in mind. Hon'ble Members are invited to take part in them on the distinct understanding that they keep its proceedings to themselves, and will themselves perceive the importance of this, inasmuch as the frankness of the discussions will depend largely on the recognition of their confidential character. I regret to find that the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal regards it as a grievance that he was not invited to these discussions. I may say by way of explanation that, when I selected the Hon'ble Members who should be summoned to them, I selected those whom I believed to be deeply interested in, and likely therefore to be able to give the Government good advice regarding, the Budget and Provincial Finance. As the work of the Council is at present regulated, no Hon'ble Member can claim as a right to take part in these discussions. But even when a Select Committee is appointed to discuss a Bill, those Members of Council are selected who are interested in the measure and likely to be able to advise in regard to it

"I think that these discussions have been of very great value. My hon'ble friend, the Financial Secretary, has kept me fully informed of their history; and the views which Hon'ble Members have expressed have received, from myself and from the other Officers of the Bengal Government, the fullest consideration. I could point to certain modifications in the Budget which were adopted on the spot at these Conferences; and I am glad to think, that my hon'ble friend, Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari was able to strengthen my hands in an appeal which I found it necessary to make to the Government of India, to allow me to go on with absolutely necessary extensions in the Presidency College—an appeal which was sympathetically received by that Government. My hon'ble friend, however, desires to go a long way further than I fear it will be possible to allow, in his confidential discussions of the Budget before the debate in Council. He proposes that we should place at his disposal the Secretariat records and Secretariat staff. I venture to think that no Member of Parliament would ask to be allowed to have free access to the Government Offices at Home, to inspect their records, and to utilize their staff in his inquiries; and I am afraid that it would similarly be quite inconsistent with the proper discharge of public business, to allow that in this country. I think that a good number of the difficulties under which my hon'ble friend has felt himself to labour, would have been removed, if the calls of his private work had not prevented him from accepting the courteous invitation of my hon'ble friend, Mr. Streatfeild, to discuss with him any Educational question in respect of which he had difficulties.

"I should like, before going on to discuss certain matters of administration to inform the Council that the Government of India have been pleased to consider favourably and sanction our proposals, regarding the utilization of the Road Cess. I am sure that this announcement will give pleasure to Hon'ble Members. I regret to say that I cannot yet give any information regarding the views of the Government of India on the Excise Bill, in which so many Hon'ble Members are interested, as the final orders of that Government have not been received.

"I cannot consent to deal at length with the charges brought by the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal against the Calcutta Police, in connection with the riots which occurred last October. All that I have had to say on this matter has been said clearly enough already. I do not think that any good purpose has been served by the Hon'ble Member in dilating upon that matter again in Council. The inquiries that have been made, the efforts to sift the evidence and ascertain the truth, the careful examination of the facts, have evidently made no impression on his mind nor in any way altered his views on the subject. The Hon'ble Member speaks of himself in one part of his address as 'the echo of the public voice.' I am prepared to admit that he may have echoed

the voice of many of the people in the original statements that he made months ago on this subject, under the influence of the impressions created by the first reports of the disturbances. I am, however, far from admitting the position which he now takes up in respect of this question. He goes so far as to say that he is 'giving expression to the feelings of the mass of his countrymen,' in reiterating these charges against the Police; and not only against the police but against the Government of Bengal. I do not believe this. The charges against the Police generally were carefully investigated by an Officer of great experience, and distinguished for soundness of judgment and impartiality, who was specially deputed to make that investigation. Individual charges, where they were made, were investigated by Mr. Halliday, the Commissioner of Police, an Officer who, I know, is highly respected and trusted in Calcutta, and whose earnest desire to purify the Police Force is beyond all question. There is nothing more to be said in regard to this matter.

"As to the Government of Bengal, it was animated from the outset by a desire to know the truth and to ascertain and punish abuse, if abuse could be ascertained, and if the perpetrators of it could be identified. If blame is attached to the Government of Bengal, it can only be by those who think that the Police ought to be punished, whether guilty or not; and that the ordinary rules of evidence and the requirements of justice do not apply, when the persons accused of offences happen to be policemen. The Hon'ble Member appears to draw a distinction between 'the friend of the police' and 'the friend and protector of the people.' I draw no such distinction. The greater includes the less. If I accept the former designation, it is because I have done what I could, both specially as one of the Members of the Police Commission, and also in other capacities in which I have had the honour of serving the Government, to purify the Police Force, to cure it of defects and to make it a worthy instrument of administration. The Police Force will not be encouraged to do effectively and righteously the work that they have to do by irrational and groundless abuse on the part of the Public, or by unjust treatment on the part of the Government. As to the latter term, I do not hesitate, with all humility, to put in a claim to have been a 'friend and protector of the people,' so far as has lain in my power. I have received to-day from various sources kindly recognition of the feelings by which I am animated, in regard to the various classes of the community and the people of various parts of the Province. But I should ill-deserve that name, if I were, with regard to one unfortunate section of the community, to depart from the principles of justice and righteousness.

"Talking of the Police reminds me of what has been said in regard to the expenditure on the Police. I am gratified to find my hon'ble friend, Mr. Sutherland and other members, expressing their satisfaction at the efforts made to carry out Police reforms. The expenditure on the Police has been adopted in accordance with a policy clearly laid down by the Government of India. Such of the recommendations of the Police Commission as were approved by the Government of India, were practically accepted by all critics of all shades of opinion, and are being introduced as funds permit. The assistance which the Government of India has given us in this matter has been very liberal; because the policy, which is being carried out, is a policy cordially approved and deliberately adopted by the Government of India and the Secretary of State. It is, however, necessary that there should be some little exercise of patience on the part of the Public in regard to this matter. We cannot expect to reap the precious fruit that we have set our hearts on, immediately after we have begun to sow the seed. If we had been able to remove from the force every member of every degree who was, or was suspected to be, other than a thoroughly good officer, and to supply the places of these by men received fully equipped from some unknown Utopia, no doubt the expenditure on Police Reform would have had an immediate return. Sober-minded men will see that this was impossible, and will exercise some patience in waiting for the results. I need not enter into details on this matter, which has been already discussed by the Hon'ble Mr. Gait.

[*The President.*]

"I may add that if there is some lack of wisdom in this somewhat impatient criticism, there is something which is much more mischievous in such remarks as were made by the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose, where he spoke of the people 'as not being much in love with the police' and 'being prepared to bless the Government if they saw less of them,' and of the Police as 'being maintained only for the suppression of a Hindu-Mussalman riot once in ten years, or dispersing a *Bande Mataram* procession.' The Hon'ble Member says, in another connection, that 'Indian Members often use strong language. Our words,' he says, 'are so little heeded that the temptation to use strong words often becomes very great.' I can assure the Hon'ble Member that if the fact that a man is not heard makes him use strong language, it is at the very least as true that a man who habitually uses strong language is not listened to. Words lose weight when they are abused. Despite defects in the Police, which I for one have insisted on, and which we are endeavouring to eradicate, it is not true that the people hate the Police. It is a singular fact, of which the Police Commission had evidence in every Province, that when the removal of a thana is proposed, in the interests of police administration, the people of the neighbourhood very soon petition against it. And I am sure that my hon'ble friend would not find his movements, even about the City of Calcutta, as easy and as free of danger as they are, if he saw much less of the Police.

"We have heard a good deal to-day about Education, and it is a subject about which we can hardly hear too much. It is a matter in regard to which interest should be constantly kept alive. I think that, in Bengal, Education has received less attention in the past than in any other Province with which I am acquainted. I think that the reason of this may have been partly that Bengal was supposed to be a wealthy Province. It was not very liberally treated in regard to its Provincial Financial Settlements. I think that of late years the Government of India have been more just and liberal in their treatment of Bengal. One consequence of the earlier neglect has been, that Education in Bengal has not been properly financed; and it has therefore not been, generally speaking, of a very high class. There are no doubt many good Primary Schools in Bengal; but a larger proportion of the Primary Schools are practically worthless than in any Province that I know. The same is true about Secondary Schools; and to a certain extent also, at least until quite recently, about Colleges. The result of this is, that, if education is to be placed on a satisfactory footing, there must be great expenditure; and the expenditure must be undertaken as rapidly as funds allow. To me the natural line of operation would have been to begin at the bottom and tackle the Primary Schools first, then the Secondary Schools, and then the Colleges. But our hands have been forced by circumstances. The law has insisted on our putting the Colleges on a satisfactory footing. If we do not do so, we must close them. We have, therefore, been bound to incur the somewhat disproportionate expenditure on higher education to which my hon'ble friend, Mr. Sutherland, objected; and our movement must now be downwards. We must indeed take up Primary Education: that presses upon us on every side. But we must also set about improving our Secondary Schools. From the mere fact that we have had to put our Colleges on a more satisfactory basis, we must specially tackle Secondary Education immediately. We cannot have our Colleges sound, while our Secondary Schools are bad. I am sorry that this year is a year of financial pressure; because this will hinder us, to a large extent, in the good work which has been begun. The Budget presented by the Hon'ble the Finance Member to the Government of India was, however, although a Famine Budget, one that inspires us with hope; and we believe that the suspension of effort, during the year on which we have just entered, will be but a very temporary check in our career of progress.

"We have had a great deal of talk to-day about Technical Education. I cannot adequately discuss this subject at the present moment. Much has been already said by my hon'ble friend, Mr. Streatfeild. We have the subject of Technical Education at heart; and we are taking steps which we believe will lead to our advancing that cause in a wise and sober manner. It is easy to

formulate crude and ill-digested schemes; but unless it is possible to examine and mature them, it is better to lay them aside. It is certainly unwise to adopt them. Our failures in the past have taught us this. The Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild has explained what we are doing; and I think a little patience must be exercised until we see what our inquiries will show. It is interesting and helpful to receive suggestions from all those who are thinking earnestly on the subject; but I trust that our many advisers will not forget that a keen interest in the subject does not make one an expert, and that experience has shown the great necessity for carefully considering schemes before inaugurating them.

"Before passing from this subject of Education, I may say that I entirely concur in the remarks which have fallen from my hon'ble friend, Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari, regarding the work which Mr. Earle did as Director of Public Instruction. Great opposition was made to Mr. Earle's appointment. It was due in many cases to pure self-interest; in others, to an unworthy jealousy of a particular service; and, in many cases, to unwitting misapprehension of the situation. As my hon'ble friend has said, the appointment 'has been justified in every way.' Mr. Earle's 'conscientious and thorough work' has brought the department to a position which it has not occupied for years, and to which I am convinced no other officer available could have brought it at the time. I concur in the 'sentiments of gratitude' with which my hon'ble friend recognizes 'the earnest and single-minded endeavour' of Mr. Earle in this department.

"I am greatly attracted by the subject of Hospitals and Dispensaries, to which I have given much attention since I assumed charge of the office of Lieutenant-Governor; and if I were to say all that I might on this subject I should occupy much of your time. I have endeavoured to improve the hospitals throughout the Province; and I desire to express the grert satisfaction with which I have found in the interior a hearty response, on the part of wealthy and liberal men, to appeals made to them on this behalf. Anything which I have given to the hospitals of the interior, has generally been supplemented very considerably by privaste liberality. It is a matter of great satisfaction to find a growing interest in hospital work on the part of the more enlightened sections of the community, and a greater pride in their Medical Institutions. In regard to Calcutta itself, thanks in some measure to private liberality and thanks also to the policy inaugurated by my predecessor which I have pursued, great improvements have taken place in the Medical Institutions. While most of the hospitals of the City have been improved, some of them almost out of recognition, I have devoted special attention to the Medical College Hospital. My reason for this is twofold: first, that it is a great hospital for Indians and therefore demands special attention from the Government; and, in the second place, because it is the great medical Teaching Institution of the Province, and sends out its students to do Medical work in all parts of the Province, and indeed to other parts of India. I think that this Institution, both as a hospital and as a college, though there still remain some improvements to be effected, is an Institution of which we have now no cause to be ashamed.

"In connection with this subject of Medical Relief, I should like to express my admiration for the spirit which has prompted my hon'ble friend, Maharaj-Adiraj Bijay Chand Mahtab, Bahadur, to consider the case of the poorer clerks and others, in respect of their need of a Sanitarium, and to make the generous offer which he has made to-day in Council. It will be interesting to see how far this suggestion of his is taken up by the Public and by liberal-minded and wealthy men in our community. I shall be glad myself to assist in forwarding a scheme of such real beneficence.

"Before passing from the discussion of Medical Work, I should like to say a few words in regard to Plague. I do not consider it necessary, after what has been said by my hon'ble friend the Financial Secretary, to treat of the subject of Sanitation generally. The Council is already well aware of what we are doing, and of what we feel are the limitations of our present action, in regard

to this very important matter. The continuance of Plague among us calls, however, for a few words as to the measures which have been taken during the year. We had a very interesting Conference on Plague at Bankipur on the 9th of July, 1907. There were present at that Conference the Sanitary Officers of Government, the Commissioner of the Division, all the Magistrates and Civil Surgeons of Bihar districts, and a number of non-official gentlemen, both medical men and laymen, who are deeply interested in this subject. There was a most valuable discussion of the whole matter and some useful notes were circulated afterwards. The relative importance of inoculation, evacuation of houses, rat-killing and the like were all discussed, as well as the times and places when these measures should best be adopted, and the best method of medical relief. The gracious letter of His Majesty the King-Emperor, and a letter from His Excellency the Viceroy to me, were translated into the vernacular and widely circulated for the encouragement of the people. The instructions of the Government of India regarding the prevention of the spread of Plague, and a leaflet prepared by the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, containing instructions for its prevention and treatment, were circulated to all Commissioners. Major Clemesha was specially deputed by this Government to the plague-infected districts in Bihar, to give instructions to selected Medical Officers, of the Assistant Surgeon and Hospital Assistant classes, in the most approved methods of inoculation, and to explain to the people the prophylactic benefit of this treatment. At the same time, District Officers and Civil Surgeons convened meetings of the people, and explained to them the measures advised by Government. Three Officers of the Indian Medical Service were also specially deputed to Bihar for plague work; and, in addition to the cost of their salaries, grants amounting to over Rs. 70,000 were made for helping the people to resist this epidemic. All these measures have been taken to meet the grievous evil; but we admit that, in respect of Plague as well as other epidemics, the great remedy is sanitation. We have been doing what little we can ourselves; we have called upon the public to assist us, and I am glad to say not always without a hearty response; and we are specially grateful to the Government of India for the grant which they have made to us for the special purpose of promoting Sanitation, a grant which, though it may seem to earnest advocates of Sanitation not to be adequate for our necessities, is at all events a generous and liberal contribution at this time of financial pressure.

"I should like to say a word in regard to the claims we have on the co-operation of liberal-minded persons in this Province, in regard to such matters as Education, Medical Work and Sanitation. My hon'ble friend, Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari, has dealt at considerable length with this matter. His treatment of it has not been altogether logical. He refers to the statement made by this Government, that in regard to Education we can hardly hope for real progress without the assistance of private liberality. A little later on he asks, 'What princely and munificent endowments do we expect from a people out of whom Government, with its powerful machinery, cannot take more than Rs. 4 in the shape of Imperial Taxes and Revenues?' The Hon'ble Member does not expect to be taken seriously in this question. For, in the same paragraph of his speech, he speaks of the munificent gifts of men like the Maharaja of Darbhanga, the late Babu Prasanna Kumar Tagore, the late Maharaja Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore, the late Mr. Prem Chand Roy Chand, the late Babu Guru Prasanna Ghose and others; and then he says significantly, 'These are endowments that might and ought to be manifolded if all who, in similar spheres of life, had the capacity, had also the inclination to imitate the noble-minded donors whom I have named.' With this view, I entirely concur. There are many who can afford to give large sums to schemes that are for the public good; and I am glad to say there are not a few who are willing to do so. I would ask for earnest assistance in regard to Education. I would ask that people who can afford it should assist the Government in constructing Primary Schools, in providing scholarships for Secondary Schools, and in making our Colleges really useful and worthy institutions. We have had recently a great appeal from the Hon'ble

the Vice-Chancellor for assistance to the University. I go further and ask for assistance to our Schools and Colleges. We are in difficulty, for example, about the Presidency College. Why is it that we cannot report assistance rendered by old pupils of this great institution? I like to hear gentlemen talking of the Professors who taught them, as their friends, and describing them as the best men that could have been in the position they occcupied. But why, with such recollections of their old College, do they not come forward, as far as they are able, to the assistance of the Presidency College, in making itself worthy of its great position and its great traditions?

"In the same way, I should like to see the Public coming forward to assist the Government in making the Medical College and its Hospital worthy of this great City. I have not had very much assistance in what I have been doing for this College. I acknowledge very gratefully the assistance which has been rendered by gentlemen, who have amongst them given three blocks of wards for paying patients, which are now in course of construction; but I cannot but express my regret that these gentlemen are confined to two sections of the community, and these sections rather of the nature of foreigners in Calcutta I should like to see the Community generally helping us in our work. I may perhaps, however, be permitted here to tell you a secret in regard to these contributions. They have all been got for me by a private Practitioner in this City, my esteemed friend, Rai Kailash Chunder Bose, Bahadur. This gentleman makes it a practice, when a patient is specially grateful for some great service rendered to him through his medical skill, to ask that patient to subscribe to something for the bringing of relief to others in similar condition. I have been benefited more than once, not only in Calcutta but also in respect of hospitals in the interior, from this large-hearted and thoroughly professional attitude, on the part of my esteemed friend. I should like to see a great deal more of *esprit de corps* among Medical Practitioners of this City. I should like to see the Officials and Non-officials working together, heartily and without jealousy, in the work of the great profession to which they belong. I should like to see them working together not only in their professional work, but also in furthering the interests of the great Medical Institutions which are found in this City. It is a grand thing for medical men to be proud of their profession. I recall a great occasion when I saw the greatest Surgeon that the last century has produced, receiving the freedom of the City in the largest hall in Edinburgh. Lord Lister, when presented with the freedom of the City, made to an audience of several thousands a speech which made an impression which nothing will ever efface. After discounting the kindly words that had been said of his work by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, he went on to say, 'This however, I can claim for myself, that I have in the course of my practice of my profession done what I could to diminish the sum of human suffering.' That remark was received by the great audience rising to its feet as one man and cheering. When quiet was restored, he added, 'And this, gentlemen, may be said by the humblest member of the noble profession to which I belong.' This is the feeling that I should like to see inspiring our medical men of all grades, of all classes, of all races: a love of the profession for the blessings that it brings to suffering humanity, a desire to advance the work of that profession among those (and they are many) who need it, and the desire to see the younger generation trained to the efficient and loving discharge of their duties."

The Council was then adjourned to Friday, the 10th April, 1908

F. G. WIGLEY,

Secy. to the Bengal Council.

DARJEELING,
The 4th June 1908.

B. S. Press—10-6-1908—931J—303—J A. C. M.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Friday, the 10th April, 1908.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. R. T. GREER, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. E. A. GAIT, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, KT.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. G. H. SUTHERLAND.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Mr. Oldham; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Gait.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

WORKING OF THE BENGAL SANITARY DRAINAGE ACT, 1895.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, in the absence of the Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, asked:—

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what Drainage Works have been undertaken under the Sanitary Drainage Act, 1895 (Ben. Act VIII of 1895)?

(*b*) Has the Sanitary Drainage Act operated successfully? If not, to what cause is the failure due, according to the opinion of the Government?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"(*a*) The only scheme undertaken hitherto under the Sanitary Drainage Act (Bengal Act VIII of 1895), is the drainage of the Magra Hât and Kaorapukur swamps in the Diamond Harbour sub-division of the 24-Parganas district. The work is in progress.

"Certain other schemes are under consideration, but have not yet been started.

"(*b*) As the Act is not yet in practical operation, it is premature to express an opinion."

MOTOR-CARS FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, in the absence of the Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, asked:—

What is the aggregate amount spent from the Provincial Revenue for buying motor-cars for Government officials in the years 1906-07 and 1907-08, and what has been the cost of maintenance (including repairs and renewal of parts) in each of those years?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"The aggregate expenditure on account of the purchase of motor-cars during the years 1906-07 and 1907-08 was Rs. 62,500, and Rs. 31,500, respectively. The aggregate cost of maintenance, including repairs and renewal of parts, during the year 1906-07, was Rs. 8,200. The actual charges on account of maintenance and repairs, during the year 1907-08, will be ascertained when the accounts for that year have been closed."

COVENANTED CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many appointments, formerly held by members of the Covenanted Civil Service, are now held in these Provinces by pure Natives of India who are not members of the said Service?

(*b*) What is the amount of savings in the cost of administration effected by such appointments?

The Hon'ble MR. GAIT replied:—

"(*a*) The following appointments formerly held by members of the Indian Civil Service are now held by Natives of India who are not members of that Service:—

Four appointments of District and Sessions Judge.
Three " " Magistrate and Collector.
One appointment of Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue.
One " " Under-Secretary to Government.
One " " Joint-Magistrate.

[*Mr. Gait; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Oldham; Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary.*]

"In addition to these, seven appointments of Joint and Assistant Magistrates have been converted into posts of Deputy Magistrates—one in the third grade, two in the fourth, two in the fifth and two in the sixth.

"(*b*) The total monthly pay of these appointments amounts to Rs. 14,836 as against a sum of Rs. 22,600, which would represent the pay of the posts if held by Civilians. There is thus a monthly saving of Rs. 7,764."

GOVERNMENT STATIONERY.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state what is the amount of the price paid by it for the stationery purchased by it which is manufactured in India, and what is the price of the stationery purchased which is manufactured in countries other than India?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"The latest actuals available are for the year 1906-07. The figures for that year were as follows:—

	Rs.
Stationery manufactured in India	... 5,27,000
Ditto ditto outside India ...	... 1,74,000
Total	... 7,01,000

"Besides the above, the local officers bought stationery amounting to Rs. 33,584 in value from the local market in 1906-07."

PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR BOYS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state what is the exact amount spent by it last year for Primary Schools for boys, excluding all expenses for direction, inspection, guru-training schools and other training schools?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The figures asked for by the Hon'ble Member require very careful collection from a number of different sources. It has been found impossible to obtain them in the time that has been available since the question reached me. They will, however, be compiled and after examination communicated to the Hon'ble Member."

APPLICATION OF INCOME UNDER THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE ACT, 1871.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY asked:—

Will it please the Government to state how the income derived under the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871, is applied after making contributions to the Puri Municipality, as stated in the reply of the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham, in answer to the questions of the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh on the subject at the last meeting?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"It appears from the statement attached to the last Resolution on the working of the Puri Lodging-house Act that, after making contributions to the Puri Municipality, the income derived from the Lodging-house Act is applied to the following purposes:—

(1) Health Officer's pay and allowances.
(2) Office establishment and contingencies.
(3) Dispensaries and other medical expenditure.
(4) Conservancy.
(5) Construction and repairs.
(6) Miscellaneous charges.

"A spare copy of the statement in question will be made over to the Hon'ble Member."

[*Mr. Macpherson; the President; Mr. Oldham; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghosh.*]

THE CALCUTTA PORT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Calcutta Port Act, 1890. He said:—

"As explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the object of this Bill is to authorize the Vice-Chairman of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta to have his signature to debenture coupons engraved, lithographed or impressed by mechanical process.

"The Port Commissioners have arranged to raise a loan of £500,000, for the purpose of carrying out works of improvement in the Port of Calcutta. Five thousand debentures of £100 each will be issued, and to each debenture will be attached sixty coupons for payment of half-yearly interest, the loan being for a term of 30 years. Three hundred thousand coupons will have to be signed, and as the debentures must be ready for issue by the end of this month, the only practicable course is to authorize the use of mechanical processes for the reproduction of the Vice-Chairman's signature.

"Similar legislation has been found necessary in the case of the Bombay Port Trust, and the present Bill in substance follows section 17A of the Bombay Act of 1879."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON also applied to the President to suspend the Rules of Business, to admit of the Bill being passed at the present sitting.

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT having declared the Rules suspended—

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council.

The motion was put and agreed to, and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON also moved that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. MACPHERSON then moved that the Bill be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE PURI LODGING-HOUSE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871, be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that the clauses of the Bill be considered in the form recommended by the Select Committee.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH moved that sub-clause (*b*) of clause 5 of the Bill be omitted. He said:—

"When the Bill was first introduced, I objected to it on four main grounds:—

"First, that it made all Pandas lodging-house keepers. Second, that the fees were too high. Third, that the word 'reasonable' should not be omitted in the section. And fourth, that this sub-clause (*b*) should be omitted.

"I am glad to find that the Select Committee have been pleased to give effect to my objection on the first three grounds, to a very great extent. The

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

dwelling-houses of the Pandas have been taken out from the operation of the Act, and a most objectionable difficulty has thus been avoided. I objected because it interfered with the priestly class. I find that my objection, upon that ground, was shared by a much higher person than myself. Sir Harvey Adamson, in the last meeting of the Supreme Council, declared that interference with the priestly class was unwise—a statement which was not considered mischievous by a certain newspaper, which violently attacked me upon that ground. Englishmen find it difficult to distinguish friends from enemies in India.

'The second objection as to the fees has also been met to some extent, Rs. 2 having been reduced to Re. 1. My third objection about the word 'reasonable' has also been met by provisions being made for safeguarding inspection of pilgrims.

"But, as regards my last objection, the majority of the Select Committee have thought it right to add the word 'day' to section 7. I find from a newspaper of Orissa that notwithstanding, the concessions, they are dissatisfied with the Bill; and they say they will carry on the fight against it, in spite of concessions made by the Select Committee for one, am thankful for the concessions made, but I ask Your Honour to consider this little matter. When the old Act was passed the Government for very good reasons omitted the word 'day' in section 7 and prescribed that the owner of a house, not licensed, should be punished by a fine, which has now been raised from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5, for every lodger for each night during which he might stay. Now the word 'day' has been added to the word 'night.' It is a well-known fact that hundreds and thousands of pilgrims visit the chief Hindu shrines during the day and go back to their homes in the neighbourhood during the night. Now this new provision will give an excuse to the lodging-house keepers, to demand the same fees from these pilgrims as from regular lodgers for giving them shelter from the burning sun of April and May and the torrential rain of July and August. It will be a great hardship to the poor pilgrims. I understand that one of the main objects aimed at by this Bill is, to raise sufficient funds for sanitation and the comfort of the pilgrims; but an indirect tax upon poor pilgrims is not, in my humble opinion, desirable. The benefit obtained by the raising of large funds would be very much counterbalanced by the hardships of the poorer portion of the pilgrims as has been pointed out by the Cuttack papers. Your Honour's well-known solicitude for the poor will, I trust, incline you to give this matter a favourable consideration. I find several other non-official Members have also given notice that they would move this amendment. I trust Your Honour will be pleased to accede this little request of the non-official Members."

The Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh said:—"The amendment has my heartiest support and, as a matter of fact, the same amendment stands in my own name. During the discussion on the Bill in Select Committee, I pressed for the omission of the sub-clause, and the Hon'ble Mr Oldham, if I understood him right, was rather inclined to accept my views. But when it was found that the Puri Lodging-house Extension Act, 1879, had this clause with the addition of the words 'each day,' then the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham thought it proper to make the law uniform, and thus have the same law in operation, both in Puri and the other places to which the Act has been extended.

"But I beg to submit that the circumstances of Puri are quite different from those of other places where this Act has been extended. During the big festivals, a very large number of pilgrims congregate in this holy city, and a good number of them cannot find a place in the licensed dwelling-houses; and what they really do is, they take temporary shelter in the cutcherry houses of zamindars or in the verandahs of private houses, and in houses which are not licensed as lodging-houses under the Act. These poor pilgrims are not required to pay any hire or rent for this temporary accommodation. The owners of these houses are doing it purely out of generous feelings. These pilgrims rest only for a few hours in these places. They visit the holy shrine and generally clear out in the course of the day. The effect of this legislation, or rather the inclusion of the word 'day', will be to deny this shelter to a very large number of pilgrims. As a matter of fact, the owners of these houses, who have hitherto granted so generously shelters to these pilgrims, will henceforth deny that

[Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Babu Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary; Mr. Oldham.]

shelter; and these pilgrims will have to stand on the road during the whole time of their visit to this holy city.

"Moreover, we do not find that the inclusion of the word 'day' will serve any very useful purpose; because the only thing which it will affect is, the temporary overcrowding of some of these private houses for a few hours in the day. But consider the evils which you impose by the insertion of this word, or rather the hardships which will operate on a very large number of pilgrims, whose number I should say is much larger than a number of pilgrims who are actually at the lodging-houses. I submit that, in view of these hardships, the word 'day' should not be inserted in the Puri Lodging-house Bill; and I submit that the matter be given due consideration."

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said:—"When this Bill was introduced, I welcomed it as a piece of wise legislation, and I still hold it to be so; and, in that respect, I differ from my hon'ble friend on my right. But I think it is my duty to support my hon'ble friend in the motion he has made. I will briefly explain the reason which has prompted me to support his motion I have found, Sir, that people living close to a place of pilgrimage go there during the day and take rest for an hour or two in any contiguous eating-house or other houses available, where a friend or relative is found, where they take their food and rest for a while and then go back to their homes again after visiting the temple. I think, Sir, that if the word 'day' is inserted in addition to the word 'night,' it will materially interfere with the comforts of these day-sojourners who are mostly poor. They are not able to pay the charge of the lodging-houses, and these people generally manage anyhow by paying two or four pice to an eating-house-keeper, to stay there and spend an hour before moving on to the temples. We must safeguard, as much as possible, overcrowding in the lodging-houses. I do not think, that if we omit the word 'day,' it will lead to any overcrowding in these places, for the people who come to the places of pilgrimage for the day would be constantly moving about during the day. Of course, I quite understand if they stay there the whole night, then they become lodgers in the real sense of the word; and certainly then they should be brought within the purview of the law. In these circumstances, I must ask you, Sir, to omit the word 'day.'"

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY said:—"I beg to support the motion, as a similar motion stands in my name but I do not wish to go over the same ground as that covered by my hon'ble friends. I wish, however, to draw Your Honour's attention to two representations of two different bodies which are entitled to consideration. The first is that of the British Indian Association, which says:—

'The two provisions of the Bill, to which the Committee beg leave to take exception, are those contained in the proposed amendments of sections 7 and 8. The increase of the rate of fees payable on licenses, by the owners of lodging-houses, would lead substantially to increased rents of these houses. This will prove a grievous burden to the pilgrims, most of whom are very poor. Such a measure will be deemed inequitable in a country, where the majority of the people consider it an indispensable religious duty to visit sacred shrines. Now that extension of railway communication has obviated the necessity for maintaining wayside serais and dispensaries for the pilgrims, a provision for the increase of fees seems to be unjustifiable. The Legislature which first enacted the Puri Lodging-house Act very properly omitted to enjoin a penalty for temporary overcrowding of a house, not licensed as a lodging-house, during the day. The opening of the railway to Puri has rendered it easy for pilgrims to return the same day that they reach that place of pilgrimage. The stringency of this provision, caused by the addition of the words "day or," will hardly improve sanitation; on the contrary, it will afford a scope to subordinate inspecting officers to levy blackmail.'

"The representation of the Orissa Association, to which I need not refer at length, is to the same effect, and I believe a public meeting held at Puri adopted a memorial, urging similar objections. I have myself not seen the memorial but have only seen the resolution, which makes me think that there is great wright in the objections. I would point out that the railway arrangements, with regard to Puri, are such that pilgrims who arrive by the morning train may if they like leave by the evening train; and, having regard to these facts, I think it would be an improvement if this word was left out."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"This question, Sir, was discussed by the Select Committee and the opinions of the Associations consulted, which have been referred to by the Hon'ble Babu Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary, were

considered; and the Select Committee accepted the proposal to insert the words 'day or', which had already been inserted in section 7 by Bengal Act I of 1884. These words are, therefore, in force in each of the other places to which this Act has been extended, and it is only at Puri that they are not in force. There is no reason that I see for drawing a distinction in this respect between Puri and other places of pilgrimage. The reasons which led to the insertion of these words were explained by Mr. Colman Macaulay, the then Secretary in the Municipal Department, when the Act of 1884 was passed through this Council; and, so far as this Government is aware, the words have not operated harshly in any of the other places affected by the Act. The arguments put forward just now by the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose seem to me to apply to the case of pilgrims who visit Puri by night just as much as to those who visit it by day. If it is hard that the pilgrims should have to stand on the road during the heat of the day, as the Hon'ble Member so pathetically urged, it would be quite as hard for them to stand on the road during the whole night. The fact that railway communication facilitates pilgrimage to Puri does not seem to me to affect the question in the least: the pilgrims can go to Puri in the evening and stay the night and go away in the morning, just as well as go in the morning, stay the day and go away in the evening. I do not see how this affects the case one way or the other. I must ask the Council, therefore, Sir, to reject this amendment."

The motion was then put and lost.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH moved that after the words "the place of residence of such Panda", at the end of sub-clause (*z*) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following be added:—

'But this payment does not include any money or property paid to the Panda for *bonâ-fide* performance of any religious observances.'

He said:—"The amendment I beg to move has reference to sub-clause (*z*) of clause 3 of the Bill, which seeks to make the definition of the word 'lodger' more explicit than what it is in the existing law; and my proposal is that a further addition be made to that definition, by inserting at its end the words 'but this payment shall not include any money or property paid to the Panda for *bonâ-fide* performance of any religious observances.' It may be said that sub-clause (*z*) simply contemplates payment made in consideration for the provision of accommodation, and necessarily excludes any payment made for the performance of religious observances; and the amendment, I am pressing for, is not, therefore, necessary. But I submit that sub-clause (*z*) is not, strictly speaking, a necessity; as the High Court has held that pilgrims making any payments in consideration for the provision of accommodation are 'lodgers' within the meaning of the existing law, and the only necessity for inserting the said sub clause is to make the meaning of the law quite clear. If it be so, my amendment should be regarded in that light also.

"The object I have in view, in moving this amendment, is to meet the case of a large number of pilgrims, who cannot find accommodation in the licensed lodging-houses during the days of big festivals, and who seek temporary shelter in the cutcherry houses of the zamindars or in the verandahs of private houses—I mean houses which are not licensed as lodging-houses. The Pandas generally secure such shelter for them, and the pilgrims do not live in these places as whole-time lodgers; but they simply get protection against sun and rain, and as soon as they visit the holy shrine, they clear out of the town. But according to the time-honoured rites, which are enjoined by their religion, they are bound to pay something to their Pandas as *pronami* or for *papuja* as it is generally called, and this payment is made for the *bonâ-fide* performance of religious observances.

"Now, Sir, it may be argued by the zealous workers of the law, who may have to deal with the prosecutions under the Act, that this payment made to the Panda includes payment for temporary accommodation secured by him; and sub-clause (*z*), as it stands, makes the payer a lodger within the meaning of the Act, and the owners of the private houses are, therefore, liable to prosecution for suffering the pilgrims to occupy their houses. If

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Babu Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary; Mr. Oldham; the President.*]

therefore such payments are not clearly excluded by sub-clause (*2*), the owners of these private houses will deny protection to the pilgrims, which they have hitherto granted purely out of generous feelings for the poor pilgrims; and the result will be that a large number of pilgrims, much larger than what are accommodated in the lodging-houses, will have no shelter during their visit to the holy city of Puri. It is too much to expect that the owners of private houses will consent to apply for licenses for their houses, as they do not afford shelter out of any pecuniary consideration. My amendment, if it be accepted, will make the meaning of the law quite clear on this point; and will thereby remove a source of great hardship to which the pilgrims will otherwise be subjected."

The motion was put and lost.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH also moved that clause 9 of the Bill be omitted. He said:—

"My next amendment is that clause 9 of the Bill, which lays down that every Inspector of a lodging-house shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code, be omitted. In moving this amendment, I do not certainly lose sight of the fact that it is desirable that the Inspector should not be obstructed in the discharge of his legitimate duties; and that the question is, whether the necessity of this addition to section 11 of the Act is justified by actual facts? The Act has been in force for nearly forty years, and has there been any frequency of cases of obstruction? I am informed that such cases have been very rare; and, if there was any such case, it was due simply to the Inspector having chosen the most unreasonable and inconvenient time for his inspection. The evil that will result, by insertion of section 11A, will far outweigh the good which it may secure. The inspecting staff, under the existing circumstances, is generally recruited from a class of people who are not above suspicion; and the inspection is not unoften made with an eye to blackmailing. The insertion of section 11A will make these Inspectors feel that they have been invested with higher status and authority, and this will afford them far greater opportunities of making their inspection a source of harassment to the pilgrims and of unnecessary prosecutions of the lodging-keepers and pandas.

"So long as the inspecting staff is not improved, I cannot lend my support to a provision of the law which, in its practical operation, will serve as an engine of oppression. Moreover, the immunities provided in section 36 of the clause afford sufficient protection to meet the requirements of Inspectors, and there is no necessity to make the law more stringent on this subject."

The motion was put and lost.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY moved that in sub-clause (*2*) of clause 3 of the Bill after the words "any other person" the words "on behalf of his Panda" be inserted. He said:—

"In the notes on this clause, in introducing the Bill, it was said that the proposed amendment was necessary for the purpose of including Pandas as lodging-house keepers. The objection to the clause, as it now stands, would be that even in a private house if a servant received any payment, the master will be liable, although he knew nothing about it; and thus even the innocent *bakshees'h* might be a source of trouble. There is a long vista of unimagined responsibilities on the part of householders entertaining friends or visitors, which ought to make one very careful with regard to this matter."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"I see no objection to this amendment, so far as Government is concerned."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY requested His Honour's ruling on his next motion, considering that a similar motion of the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh had been lost.

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT held that the Hon'ble Member must give up the clause which has already been lost.

[*Babu Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary.*]

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY then withdrew the words "for performance of religious rites." He said:—

"I move, Sir, that, in the same sub-clause after the word 'Panda' in the last line, the following be added: 'not being payment of money or delivery of property for charitable purposes; nor shall such term include *bonâ-fide* seekers of health living in hotels, hostels, messes, or boarding-houses and sanitaria recognized by the Magistrate or Health Officer as such, though such persons may perform pilgrimage.'

"With regard to the first portion of my amendment, it often happens that persons leave with a Panda some money for distribution to the poor or for the benefit of the poor; and it will not be always easy to differentiate the reason and purposes for which these payments are made. Unless a safeguard like this is provided, people will be loath to trust money to their Panda even for charitable distribution which they cannot stay to see through. I do not wish to repeat the reasons my hon'ble friend has already given with regard to religious performances; but with regard to charitable purposes this argument applies just as well.

"With regard to the second portion of my amendment, the reason of it has already been stated in the Report of the Select Committee, which says: 'we have substituted the words 'a pilgrim' for 'an inmate', so as to set at rest a question which has been raised as to the application of Bengal Act IV of 1871 to European boarding-houses and hotels which have been erected since that Act was passed.' It is not European hotels alone, which require exemption of the kind that the Select Committee rightly thought ought to be allowed. There are Brahmo, Indian Christian and Mussulman and various other establishments of the same description springing up on all sides at our places of pilgrimage which are mostly sanataria and which will require exemption of the kind I ask for in this amendment.

"Mr. Duke says the Magistrate of Balasore has raised a question regarding the definition of 'lodger' and 'lodging-house.' He says:—

'Do not the defination of "lodging-house" and "lodger" require further amendment, in view of the European boarding-houses and hotels and many private houses which are let on hire at times, that have been built on the sea-face of Puri since the passing of the last Act? Would these houses have to be licensed in the same way as lodging-houses for *bonâ-fide* pilgrims? This question was before raised by a Magistrate of Puri, but not taken up by my predecessor, Mr. Growse. We do not desire to apply the provisions of the Lodging-house Act to the European boarding-houses on the sea-face. These are all within the Balukhond Government Estate, and the use of holdings, in this estate, is regulated by strict provisions in the lease, which sufficiently provide against their being used as lodging-houses for pilgrims. The easiest method would be not to attempt to alter the definitions, but to arrange to exclude the Balukhond Estate from the scope of the Act.'

"Sir, it is unfortunate that Mr. Duke's requirements for exemption has not met with the approval of this Council; but I think, with regard to houses of the kind that has been mentioned by him in his note it is not only necessary but desirable. Of course, it may be said that one does not know what a *bonâ-fide* pilgrim may be, for there are Hindus good, bad and indifferent living in those houses who, if they are there, will feel it their duty to perform pilgrimage which however would not make them pilgrims within the meaning or spirit of the Act; and there is no reason why these pilgrims and these houses should not be exempted from the operation of the Act. The mere fact of their performing some pilgrimage ought not to prevent these houses from being excluded from the purview of the Act."

The motion was, by leave of the Council, divided into two and put as follows:—

That in sub-clause (*2*) of clause 3 of the Bill after the word "Panda," in the last line, the following be added:—

'Not being payment of money or delivery of property for charitable purposes.'

That in sub clause (*2*) of clause 3 of the Bill after the word "Panda," in the last line, the following be added:—

'Nor shall such term include *bonâ-fide* seekers of health, living in hotels, hostels, messes or boarding-houses and sanitaria recognized by the Magistrate or Health Officer as such, though such persons may perform pilgrimage.'

These two motions were separately put and lost.

[*Babu Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Oldham.*]

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY, by leave of the Council withdrew the following motion of which he had given notice, namely:—

That for sub-clause (*b*) of clause 5 of the Bill the following be substituted, namely:—

'(*b*) for the words "each night during any part of which," the words "each night that" shall be substituted.'

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY also, by leave of the Council, withdrew the following motion of which he had given notice, namely:—

That clause 6 of the Bill be omitted.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY, by leave of the Council, withdrew the following motion of which he had given notice, namely:—

"That the words 'one rupee' be substituted for the words 'the fee payable for a license under section 8,' in the last line of clause 14 of the Bill."

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY also moved that the words "Lieutenant-Governor" be substituted for the word "Magistrate," in line 3 of the proposed amendment in clause 6 of the Bill. He said:—

"Of course, there are some discretionary powers which have to be vested, and there is no doubt they ought to be vested, in the highest authority. We are living in days of decentralization; but with regard to this matter it is always best to come up to head-quarters year after year, inorder that we may see whether in the existing state of things larger powers are necessary. No loss of time is likely to occur in these days of quick transmission of messages; and I think if matters are left in Your Honour's hands, they will fare better than in the hands of the Magistrate from time to time."

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL submitted that if His Honour was not able to accept the motion to change the word "Magistrate" into "Lieutenant-Governor", the word "Commissioner" should be substituted.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"I see no objection to this amendment as proposed by the Hon'ble Babu Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary. In fact, personally I think that it will be preferable that the rate should be fixed by Government and notified in the Calcutta Gazette, so that it may be known to the public throughout the Province."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY also moved that in sub-clause (*c*) of clause 8 of the Bill, the figure "8" be substituted for the figures "10".

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"I suggest to the Hon'ble Babu Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary as a compromise that the figure '9' be substituted for the figures '10' in clause 8 of the Bill."

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY said:—"I agree in compromises, and I accept it."

The motion was then put in the amended form and agreed to.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY also moved that in sub-clause (*c*) of clause 8 of the Bill, the following words at the end be omitted:—"or by the Health Officer if he is also the Civil Medical Officer of the district." He said:—

"This amendment I hope the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill will also see his way to accept. Your Honour will see that the proposed amendment is that no 'entry, inspection or examination shall be made between the hours of 10 P.M. and 6 A.M., except by (*a*) the Magistrate himself, or (*b*) the Health Officer, if he is also the Civil Medical Officer of the district, or (*c*) any officer not below the rank of Sub-Deputy Magistrate or Sub-Deputy Collector, who is authorized in writing in this

[*Babu Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Mr. Oldham.*]

behalf by the Magistrate, or by the Health Officer if he is also the Civil Medical Officer of the district.' But under the law as it now stands the Health Officer has no authority even during the day to depute an inspecting officer by virtue of the amendment, he will be invested with authority during the night. Mr. Duke has, I think, pointed out it would not be quite safe to invest the ordinary Health Officer with authority like this, because he would generally be a low paid Civil Hospital Assistant. One cannot conceive of circumstances in which it is likely, even during the time when, say, the Magistrate may be asleep, for the Health Officer to arouse his subordinates from bed and order them out; and it is not his own subordinates that Health Officer is allowed to order out, but members of the Subordinate Magistracy who may not like to be ordered about like this by a mere Health Officer. Work and disception will alike suffer and the Health Officer will be given powers, during the night which he has not in day time, and I hope my hon'ble friend will see his way to accept the amendment."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—"I think the discussion in the Select Committee on this showed that we intended to do what has just been said by my hon'ble friend. He wanted the Magistrate himself or the Health Officer, or any officer not below the rank of Sub-Deputy Magistrate or Sub-Deputy Collector, to be empowered to make an inspection during such hours of the night. For my own part, I never thought who intended in the Select Committee that the Health Officer should be empowered to authorize any other person to make the inspection."

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said:—"I support my hon'ble friend and I wish to point out that this section invests the Magistrate and the Health Officer with certain powers to delegate their functions to certain other officers, just as the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation delegates his powers to officers under him. Now, the Magistrate, of all officers in a district, knows a Sub-Deputy Magistrate or a Sub-Deputy Collector better than the Civil Surgeon of the district; and if power is to be given to any officer, I think it is just and proper that the Magistrate should be empowered and not the Civil Medical Officer, who belongs to a different department."

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said:—"I support the motion."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"The Hon'ble Member seems to have missed the real point of the proviso. Clause (*c*) is intended to enable the Health Officer to pass an order when the District Magistrate is not available—when, for instance, he is on tour in a distant part of his district, and not when he is asleep. In many places, most of the executive work in connection with administration of the law falls upon the Health Officer; and this is another reason why the suggestion was made. However, the matter is not a very important one; and in view of the fact that in the first clause of the section the Health Officer has not been given power to authorize in writing any person to enter and inspect, I have no objection to the amendment being carried."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM moved that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed. He said:—

"The Bill before the Council to-day is a very simple one. When it was first introduced in this Council, an attempt was made to make out that grave changes were contemplated in the principles of the Act. How very far that was from the truth, has been disclosed by the subsequent proceedings in the Select Committee. All communications received from the local associations that were consulted on the provisions of the Bill have been very carefully considered by the Select Committee, and every weight given to the arguments put forward. The two gentlemen on this Council, who represent the Divisions in which the two most important places of pilgrimage to which this Act has been extended lie, were on the Select Committee. I refer to the Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad and the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.

[*Mr. Oldham; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

The three provisions of the Bill to which objection was chiefly taken were the definition of the word 'lodger,' the raising of the maximum in section 8 and the omission of the word 'reasonable' in section 10. The opposition to the other provisions of the Bill was extremely slight. The Select Committee made concessions on each of these three points. The definition of the word 'lodger,' as now proposed, can hardly give rise to any reasonable objection. The maximum fee under section 8 has been fixed at Re. 1, in deference to the opinion expressed by certain associations, and as suggested by the Indian Association and the Bihar Landholders' Association. I may mention for the information of the Council that this maximum of one rupee is already in force in all places, other than Puri, to which the Act has been extended. The rate was introduced by Bengal Act II of 1879. There is no reason whatever why Puri should be treated differently in this respect from other places of pilgrimage. All that has been done, therefore, is to prescribe an uniform rate. In regard to the objection taken to the proposed amendment of section 10, the Select Committee added an important proviso. This proviso has been slightly modified in Council to-day, and the section as it now stands ought, I think, to meet with the approval of all concerned. I move that the Bill as now settled in Council, be passed."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—"I am thankful to the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham and to the Select Committee that some of the proposals, in their entirety, and some partially, have been adopted. But I must confess a sense of disappointment that the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham could not see his way to accept two amendments of a very material character, and particularly the one which related to the amendment of the word 'day'; and the other amendment is that relating to the payment by pilgrims of money to Pandas purely, for their services. If the Hon'ble Member could have accepted these two amendments, I could assure him that this Bill would have been accepted by the people of Orissa without any serious complaints. But these are the two principal provisions of the Bill, which will make the people of Orissa feel that a Legislature has sought to lay down distinction upon the easy influx of pilgrims to that holy city: in other words, has sought to interfere to some extent in the performance of religious rites."

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"All that I must say is, that the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham has not recognized I think in these objections the services of the non-official Members in bringing the amendments to his notice."

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said:—"I think we must say, although we differ from the Government in one or two points, that this Bill has been conceived in the best interests of the people. The Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh has referred to two points on which the opinion of the people had not been taken into due consideration. Sir, I think, having regard to the expression of the opinion of bodies like the British Indian Association and the Orissa Association and the strong opposition of the non-official members, section 7 of the Act might have been modified and the word 'day' might have been omitted."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"I am sure, Sir, that the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose is under a very grave misapprehension if he thinks I do not recognize very fully the kind assistance which the non-official Members of the Select Committee gave me in considering the provisions of this Bill; and I am very thankful not only to them, but also to the official Members of the Select Committee who assisted. I move, Sir, that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned *sine die*.

CALCUTTA;
The 21st April, 1908.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

B. S. Press—8-5-19 8—467J—200—T. E. J.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 11th July, 1908, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. R. T. GREER, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. S. P. SINHA, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. F. W. DUKE.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, KT.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon'ble MR. S. P. SINHA and the Hon'ble MR. F. W. DUKE took their seats in Council.

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Babu Gajadhar Prasad; the President.*]

STATEMENTS AS TO ANARCHISM.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"I beg leave to make a statement. I have been authorized by the members of the District Boards, the Local Boards, and the Municipalities of the Presidency Division 'to state that they view with abhorrence the anarchical crimes lately committed, that they are keenly alive to the great benefits of the British rule, and that they undertake to exert all the influence they possess on the side of order and peace in the country. They beg to assure the Government that the great mass of the people are loyal and wholly unaffected by *anti*-British agitations, and they trust that for the crimes of the few, the people of Bengal as a whole should not be objects of suspicion or in any way suffer; and that the Government will be pleased to go on in its beneficent course of furthering the progress of education, the development of agriculture and industries and of sanitation in the country, and grant a larger measure of self government which it might have been prepared to grant if the incidents of the last two or three years had not happened.'

"More than four hundred members of the Boards, being about 90 *per cent.* of the entire number, most of whom are elected, representatives of over one million of Bengalis, have given me authority in writing. Only two gentlemen have written to say that the statement was unnecessary, and resolutions of two or three public bodies have omitted the last few lines of the statement, though most of their members have individually given an unconditional authority.

"As a sample, I beg leave to place before Your Honour a letter from the Vice-Chairman of the 24-Parganas District Board. 'Referring to your very laudable proposal to make a statement at the next meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, I unhesitatingly beg to submit on my behalf and on behalf of the District Board, 24-Parganas, that we each and all of us dissociate ourselves from all anarchical movements of a microscopical minority which is looked upon with extreme abhorrence and hatred. It is incumbent on me to assure you that we have not the slightest sympathy with the political propaganda of *anti*-British fanatics who want to upset a settled Government and introduce chaos and disorder in the place of peace and prosperity, and I would earnestly request you to be so good as to represent the cherished views and sentiments of our Board at the next meeting of the Council'

"It is our fervent prayer that the Government will be graciously pleased to continue their beneficent course of furthering the progress of education, the development of agriculture and industries and of sanitation, and grant a larger measure of self-government."

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said:—"With Your Honour's permission I want to make a statement on behalf of the whole of Bihar. I beg to assure Your Honour that the Biharis do not sympathize with the movement of the Anarchists—rather they view it with a feeling of deep abhorrence. They are of opinion that full patriotism is synonymous with full loyalty to Government. Government is bound to put down anarchy for the welfare of the people, and in taking any measure to suppress anarchism the Government is entitled to the full and earnest support of the people, and I hope the Indians will unhesitatingly and freely give such support."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"I do not think it is necessary for any Hon'ble Member to state his own views, and unless any other Hon'ble Member has authority to state the views of others, it is perhaps unnecessary to prolong the discussion.

"I think that Hon'ble Members will agree with me that our colleague has rendered public service of some value in obtaining this expression of opinion from the members of the District Boards, Local Boards, and Municipalities who have selected him for nomination to this Council. As he has

[*The President.*]

stated, the members of these bodies are practically unanimous in their abhorrence of the crimes lately committed and attempted. They desire to assure the Government that the great mass of the people, whom they represent in the local bodies of the Presidency Division, are loyal and wholly unaffected by *anti*-British agitation; and they express the hope that the crimes of the few will not subject the people of Bengal to general suspicion, nor prevent the Government from pursuing its course of reform and efforts after improvement in administration.

"My hon'ble friend showed me last Thursday the mass of letters which he has received authorizing him to make the statement which he has made to-day on behalf of his constituents. Only two letters out of the hundreds which he showed me fail to express cordial sympathy with the sentiments of loyalty which his statement contains, and the writers of these letters only disagree so far as to say that they do not consider his statement necessary. I am glad that this view was found to be so very exceptional. It has been too long a reproach to men of moderate opinions that they have failed to see the necessity for speaking out in a manly and straightforward way. I hope that we are done with this. I have especially noticed the courtesy and eager cordiality, not to say enthusiasm, which the vast majority of these letters have evinced. They are written by Englishmen, Hindus and Muhammadans; and, whatever the race or religion of the writer, his entire sympathy with the statement which our hon'ble friend desired authority to make is manifested in the clearest manner.

"There were, I think, only two letters, in addition to the two already referred to, which did not accept the whole of the statement proposed. These were from two gentlemen who thought that the last part of the statement might be omitted. One of them explained that as a father and a teacher he had found that it was not well to 'punish and pet' at the same time. He therefore proposed that reform should be suspended until public order was completely restored. I was glad to see that this proposal was made by only two of those who replied to the Hon'ble Member's letter. It may not be a sound thing to punish and pet a child at the same time, but it is quite unsound to deprive one person of benefits because it is necessary to punish another.

"There is no intention on the part of Government to make concessions to disorder, but there is a determination not to allow the crimes of a few to divert it from its policy of just and progressive administration. I think that we have good reason to congratulate ourselves that the Secretary of State and His Excellency the Viceroy have both declared emphatically that they will not stay their hand in the work of reform, and in the just and beneficent rule of this country, because what we believe to be a very minute minority of the people has adopted a course of conduct which calls for the severest repression and punishment.

"For my own part I feel that the police must be called on to take special precautions for the prevention of crimes contemplated by a section of the community, and that every effort must be made by the Government, in the interests of sound administration and in the interests of the people themselves, to crush and punish these efforts to disturb the public peace and to incite to, or to commit acts of lawless and wicked violence. But at the same time I cannot admit that my opinion of, or my regard for, the people of India as a whole has undergone any very serious change from the events which have occurred. I do not attribute these events to the people generally, and I decline to condemn the whole population for the crimes of a few.

"I earnestly trust that the clear declaration of loyalty and of regard for order which has been made here to-day, and which is now being made in so many parts of India, will prevent the people generally from being suspected of complicity in, or indifference to, these crimes. I trust also that it will tend to give more courage to those who have found it in the past somewhat difficult to speak for order and for peace and lead them to take up a stronger position in face of the noisy minority that advocate disorder and disloyalty."

[*Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Mr. Streatfeild; Mr. Oldham.*]

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED TRAINING COLLEGE.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said:—

In view of the facts that Bengal is far more advanced educationally than Bihar, and that the need of a Training College is not so great in Calcutta as in Bihar, will it please the Government to locate the proposed Training College for teachers at Patna or at Bhagalpur?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The location of the proposed Training College has not yet been finally settled. The claims of Bihar will receive careful consideration."

THE BENGAL LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM moved that the Bill to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 be re-committed to the Select Committee for the incorporation of provisions relating to sanitation and provisions for preventing the diversion of the road-cess. He said:—

"It will be within the recollection of this Council that after the presentation of the last Report of the Select Committee on this Bill, the consideration of the measure was, in view of the opinion then expressed, postponed by His Honour the President in order that steps might be taken, with the sanction of the Government of India, to the insertion of provisions for (1) ear-marking the road-cess for the objects for which it is collected, and (2) giving Local Union Committees certain powers in respect of measures of sanitation, conservancy, drainage and water-supply, subject in certain cases to the control of the District Board and the Commissioner, and empowering them to supplement the funds available for such local improvements by permissive local taxation.

"The draft amendments have since been framed, and the sanction of the Government of India has been received to their introduction. I need say little in regard to the proposals for ear-marking the road-cess. The amendments suggested by this Government with this object, which involve amendment of sections 52, 53, 138 and Schedule II of the Act, have been accepted by the Government of India, on condition that power be expressly reserved to Government to condone any temporary or exceptional deviation from the rule. In regard to local sanitation, it is proposed, amongst other provisions, to allow a Union Committee to undertake works of sanitation *suo moto*, subject to the control of the District Board and of rules made by the Lieutenant-Governor; to deal with insanitary villages or insanitary blocks in villages, in accordance with a scheme to be approved by the District Board and the Commissioner; to employ special establishment for the cleansing of villages and to require occupiers of houses to cleanse their holdings; to control the construction of new buildings, and to supplement their income by levying light taxation from the owners or occupiers of property within the Union. Appeals to the District Magistrate and the Commissioner of the Division have also been provided for as a safeguard."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that the Hon'ble Mr. Greer, the Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur and the Mover be added to the Select Committee on the same Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned to a date to be notified hereafter.

CALCUTTA;
The 7th August, 1908.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

B. S. Press—10-8-1908—1463J—300—W. M. D'C.

Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 15th August, 1908, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble MR. R. T. GREER, C.S.I., *presiding.*

The Hon'ble MR. W. H. H. VINCENT.

The Hon'ble MR. S. P. SINHA, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, KT.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJA-DHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

NEW MEMBER.

The Hon'ble MR. W. H. H. VINCENT took his seat in Council.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CENTRAL WEAVING SCHOOL IN SERAMPORE.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons of the delay—

(*a*) in the opening of the Central Weaving School in Serampore, sanctioned by the Government some time ago; and

(*b*) in building the school-house and its adjuncts on the land acquired by the Government for that purpose some time ago?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"(*a*) The delay in opening the Central Weaving School at Serampore is due to the difficulty in securing the services of a properly-qualified Principal and Assistant Principal. The Principal recruited by the Secretary of State failed at the last moment. Further proposals in regard to the selection of a Principal have now been submitted to the Government of India, and it is hoped that a suitable officer will shortly be appointed.

"(*b*) The building of the school has been postponed until the arrival of the Principal, without whose expert advice it would be inadvisable to erect workshops and machinery."

KANKINARA BOMB OUTRAGE.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to consider the expediency of disclosing the grounds which led the Police—

(*a*) to suspect some respectable men in Bhatpara, notably a *pandit* who is well known for his Sanskrit erudition and for purity of character, of having been concerned in what is popularly known as "the Kankinara bomb outrage";

(*b*) to search their houses, and then to arrest them and to bring them up for trial in the Court of the Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah; and

(*c*) to withdraw the prosecution without disclosing the charges on which they were put on their trial?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"It is inevitable that when some persons of 'respectable' position are undoubtedly guilty of crime, the mere fact of respectability will not shield other respectable persons from suspicion when information is received and evidence exists against them. It is also unavoidable that prompt action must be taken on information and evidence produced in such cases, if action is to be of any use. Hence there is unfortunately, in such cases and under such circumstances, the possibility of causing annoyance and inconvenience to persons who may afterwards appear, or prove to be, innocent. The Police have avoided, and do avoid, this as much as possible, and exercise all the care they can, consistently with the public safety. It is impossible, in view of the public interests, to disclose the grounds on which action was taken in this particular case."

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Streatfeild.*]

CARRYING OF HINDU CORPSES IN THE DUM-DUM CANTONMENT.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

(*a*) Is it a fact, as stated in the *Bengalee* newspaper of July 29th, that a Cantonment Committee at Dum-Dum has passed a Resolution restricting the carrying of the corpses of Hindus between sunrise and 7 in the morning and again between 12 noon and 3 in the afternoon, along Jessore Road?

(*b*) Is it a fact, as stated in the same newspaper, in its issue of the 31st July, that as many as twelve persons have been fined for carrying corpses along the Jessore Road beyond the hours specified in the aforesaid Resolution?

(*c*) If so, is the Government aware that such limitation of hours seriously interferes with the religious injunctions of the Hindus relating to the disposal of the dead, the instantaneous removal and cremation of corpses being strictly laid down in the *Sastras?*

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased, in consonance with its wise and beneficial policy of non-interference with the religious practices of the people, to direct the local authorities to allow the corpses of Hindus to be conveyed to the burning-ghât along Jessore Road as before?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD said:—

"The matter will be inquired into."

ALIPORE REFORMATORY SCHOOL.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

(*a*) Is it proposed to remove the Alipore Reformatory School to Hazaribagh?

(*b*) If so, has the Board of Management of the Alipore Reformatory School been consulted on the subject, and with what results?

(*c*) Is it a fact that two Committees appointed by the Government and presided over by Mr. Justice Pargiter and the Hon'ble Mr. Collin, respectively, objected to the amalgamation of the Alipore Reformatory School with the Hazaribagh Reformatory, and that the late Director of Public Instruction, Sir Alexander Pedler, was opposed to the amalgamation and urged the necessity of retaining the Alipore Reformatory near Calcutta?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Sir Charles Elliott, while Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, rejected the proposal of amalgamation, which emanated from the Board of Management of the Hazaribagh Reformatory, on the objections raised by the Alipore Board of Management, especially those of Messrs. Garrett and Amir Ali, who were then Members of the Board?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Woodburn, also dropped the proposal of amalgamation?

(*f*) In the event of the removal of the Alipore Reformatory School to Hazaribagh, will it not be necessary to open a depôt for boys who are at present working on license, in Calcutta and Howrah, and thereby a large expenditure will be incurred, in building and in acquiring land and in maintaining a new staff of Superintendents and guards, apart from the charges of escorting boys to, and bringing back the Calcutta boys from, Hazaribagh?

(*g*) Having regard to the fact that, boys in the Alipore School being principally from Calcutta, its suburbs and Bengal Proper, its removal would, in the words of Mr. Justice Pargiter, "add some of the terrors of transportation to those of imprisonment," will the Government be pleased to drop the proposal of the removal of the Alipore Reformatory to Hazaribagh, or consult public bodies before taking that step?

[*Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"It is proposed to remove the Alipore Reformatory School to Hazaribagh and to amalgamate it with the Reformatory School at that place. The transfer of boys is already taking place.

"The present site of the Alipore Reformatory School has been found altogether unsuitable for the purpose, and the transfer of the school to another site is a matter of necessity. This necessity became urgent owing to the late outbreak of beri-beri in the school. The difficulty of finding a healthy and spacious site in the immediate neighbourhood of Calcutta is almost insuperable and the cost of such a site would be prohibitive.

"After most careful consideration of all the circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor was fully convinced that, for the sake of the boys' health as well of efficiency and discipline, the amalgamation of the two schools at Hazaribagh was very desirable, especially as the buildings at that place are sufficiently spacious to receive all the boys, and as the amalgamation could therefore be effected promptly and at comparatively small cost. As His Honour was quite satisfied that the amalgamation ought to be carried out, it was not thought necessary to consult the Board of Management. The Board have, however, been informed officially of the intentions of Government. The arrangements for licensing boys have not yet been decided upon. It is not proposed at present to open a separate depôt in Calcutta.

"It appears to the Lieutenant-Governor to be entirely unreasonable and improper to apply the expression 'terrors of transportation' to a land journey of 255 miles, of which 215 can be performed by train. The expression 'imprisonment' as applied to detention in a Reformatory School is also misleading under present conditions. These schools are no longer under the Jail Department. They are managed entirely by the Education Department; and every effort is made to secure that their general character shall be as much as possible that of a school and as little as possible that of a prison. The one object of these schools is the reclamation of boys from a career of crime to one of usefulness; and there is reason to believe that the attainment of this object is more easily secured where the boys are altogether removed from the influence of old associates and surroundings. Boys from Assam have always been sent to the Hazaribagh Reformatory School without objection; and there is therefore no reasonable ground for making the removal thither of boys from Bengal a matter of grievance.

"The Government has no intention of dropping the proposal."

FAMINE IN THE NADIA AND IN THE 24-PARGANAS DISTRICTS.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state the extent and intensity of famine in the Meherpur Sub-division in the district of Nadia and in Basirhat Sub-division in the district of the 24-Parganas, and the steps taken to alleviate the distress of the people?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"*District Nadia.*—The area affected in the Meherpur Sub-division is 257 square miles with a population of 160,000. No separate statistics of numbers on relief and expenditure incurred are available in respect of this sub-division. In the district taken as a whole, the area affected is 963 square miles with a population of 532,000 persons. About Rs. 5,85,000 have been distributed in loans under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts. Relief is being given by means of works carried on through the District Board; gratuitous relief has also been given where needed. Grants aggregating Rs. 1,17,830 have been made by Government for this purpose up to date. Funds have also been raised locally, and a grant of Rs. 2,000 will shortly be made from the Bengal Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

This, however, will be devoted solely to the purposes for which this Fund has been raised. On the last August, 3,845 persons were employed on works, and Rs. 860 were distributed to 2,276 persons as gratuitous relief for the week. There has been good rain and the prospects of the crops are fair.

"*District 24-Parganas.*—Government is not aware of any severe distress in the Basirhat Sub-division, although careful inquiries have been made by the Sub-divisional Officer. There has been good rain throughout the district, and prospects of crops are on the whole fair."

THE CHOTA NAGPUR TENANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1907.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved for leave to withdraw the Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1907. He said:—

"This Bill was introduced into Council in the early part of last year. It was then referred to a Select Committee. On a detailed examination it was found that it was open to objection in some particulars and incomplete and deficient in others. It is therefore proposed to proceed no further with that measure, and I have now to ask leave of this Council to withdraw the same."

The motion was put and greed to.

THE CHOTA NAGPUR TENANCY AND SETTLEMENT BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT also moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend and consolidate certain enactments relating to the law of Landlord and Tenant, and the settlement of rents in Chota Nagpur. He said:—

"The law on this subject is at present contained in a number of Acts, mostly Acts of this Council. In the district of Manbhum, however, Act X of 1859, which is not, I think, an Act of this Council governs the relations between landlord and tenant. In the rest of the division, Bengal Act I of 1879 is in force. It has since been amended in some particulars by two later Acts of 1903 and 1905. There is also a special Act regarding the mutation of praedial conditions, being Bengal Act IV of 1897; and finally a number of sections of Act VIII of 1885, being the Bengal Tenancy Act, are in force in Chota Nagpur excluding the district of Manbhum, by virtue of the Notifications of the Government of Bengal specified in paragraph 2 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

"The present Bill has been framed to supersede and consolidate the Acts at present in force in Chota Nagpur (excluding Manbhum), and by clause 1 of the Bill power has been retained to extend the Bill or any portions of the same to the district of Manbhum, if it should appear advisable to do so. I do not propose to deal with the provisions of the Bill at any great length at this stage of the proceedings. The same are discussed fully in the Statement of Objects and Reasons which has been circulated and which is an annexure to the Bill. Moreover, the provisions of the Bill will be considered in greater detail in Select Committee. At the same time, I think it my duty to give the Council some account of the history of the proposed legislation and of the main principles therein contained. Bengal Act I of 1879 was amended as I have said in 1903 and 1905. In 1906, further proposals for amendment were made. These proposals were subsequently formulated in the Bill which has just now been withdrawn. After the consideration of that Bill in Select Committee, a fresh amending Bill was drafted by the Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Select Committee, and the new Bill was discussed at considerable length at repeated meetings convened by direction of the Lieutenant-Governor at Ranchi in August last. At these Conferences, representatives of all classes interested in the welfare of landlord and tenant in Chota Nagpur were present and the provisions of the draft Bill were considered and discussed at length and in detail, and finally the same were accepted

with some modifications, and a final Conference was held at which His Honour presided when the proceedings of the previous Conferences were considered and approved. The Government was then of opinion that it would be inconvenient to pass another merely amending Bill, and that it would be well to take the opportunity of consolidating the unrepealed portions of the existing law and the proposed changes into one Bill, and in accordance with that view the present Bill has been framed. It also includes some amendments—though comparatively few—of importance which were not considered at the Ranchi Conference.

"Having stated briefly a history of the present Bill, I now wish to lay before the Council the main and important changes which are contained in the same. In the first place, the principle of the settled raiyat, which has been accepted for many years in the rest of Bengal, is now recognized in Chota Nagpur.

"In the year 1901, a suggestion was made by the Government of India that the Lieutenant-Governor should consider the expediency of assimilating the law on this point in Chota Nagpur with the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act. His Honour was then of opinion that the Government had not sufficient information in regard to local conditions to enable it to accept the proposal. Since then a quantity of information on the subject has been collected by the Settlement Department, and the Government is now, after a consideration of the same, of the opinion that there are no valid reasons for retaining raiyats in Chota Nagpur, in a less advantageous position in this respect than the raiyats in the rest of Bengal. Similarly, it is proposed in the Bill to ameliorate the position of non-occupancy raiyats. Bengal Act I of 1879 practically gives this class of raiyats no rights, and so far as that Act is concerned they are, independent of any customary rights, tenants at will, and are liable to be called upon to pay rack rents and to summary ejectment at the hands of the landlord. It is proposed in the present Bill to assimilate the position of a non-occupancy raiyat in Chota Nagpur with that held in the rest of Bengal.

"There is also no provision in the existing Act for the mutation of rents in kind into money rents. Provision has been made on the lines of the corresponding sections of the Bengal Tenancy Acts for such mutations.

"I now come to the question of enhancements of rents of occupancy tenants on which point the Bill makes very material changes in the law. At present the law on the subject of enhancements in Chota Nagpur is contained in section 21 of Bengal Act I of 1879. Enhancements by private contract are in the opinion of the executive authorities entirely prohibited by section 21 of Bengal Act I of 1879, and enhancements can be effected legally only by an order of the Deputy Commissioner. Even Revenue-officers preparing records-of-rights, have no authority to settle rents.

"It is now proposed to change this and to enact that all enhancements of rents in areas where a record-of-rights has been prepared, subject to certain conditions, shall be effected only at periodical revisions of settlement. This proposal was accepted gladly and without a single dissentient voice at the Ranchi Conference. It does not seem necessary, therefore, for me to dwell upon it at any length.

"The customary rights of aboriginal raiyats in jungle and waste lands of their villages are a possession which these people greatly cherish. At the same time, they are the subject of constant disagreements and disputes with the landlord; and the difficulty of deciding such disputes satisfactorily is enhanced by the absence in many cases of any documentary evidence regarding the same. To remove this difficulty it is proposed to utilize the services of Settlement-officers engaged in the publication of records-of-rights who will be required under the provisions of the Bill to make a record of such customary rights when preparing a record of other tenants' rights under Chapter XII of the Bill. This record will have of course only the presumptive value that attaches to the record-of-rights. Similarly, the customary rights of raiyats in regard to the conversion of jungle and waste lands into rice lands have

been clearly and specifically set forth in clauses 64 and 65 of the Bill, and Settlement-officers when preparing records of-rights are called upon to include a statement in regard to this right in the record, if so directed by the Local Government. This subject of the reclamation of waste lands, locally known as the preparation of *Korkar* or *Khandwat*, was discussed at very great length at the Ranchi Conferences to which reference has been made, and the provisions of the Bill are based entirely on the decisions of that Conference.

"Provision has also been made in Chapter XIV of the Bill for the protection of the interest of landlords in those privileged lands in which rights of occupancy do not ordinarilly accrue. These lands correspond to the lands commonly termed *zerait* in the Bengal Tenancy Act, and the proposals on this point also are based on the decisions arrived at in the Conference. Another very important matter to which attention should be drawn is that discussed in Chapter XV of the Bill. It has been found in certain backward portions of the division that the customary rights of village headmen and other cultivating raiyats have been systematically disregarded by powerful landlords, and that the aboriginal tenants in such areas have been entirely unable to secure redress for their grievances in the ordinary Civil Courts, and the provisions of this Chapter have been framed for the protection of these tenants where such action is found necessary. It is proposed to empower the Local Government to direct the preparation of the record-of-rights in selected areas which shall be final and conclusive evidence of the particulars recorded therein. It is not the intention of the Government to enforce the provisions of this Chapter generally or freely, and it is clearly to be understood that it will be utilized only in particular areas after clear proof of the necessity of special measures for the protection of aboriginal raiyats. There are in the existing law similar provisions for the protection of *Mundari Khunt-Kattidars* and in the Sonthal Parganas, a district inhabited by aboriginals of similar races to those that inhabit Chota Nagpur, a settlement record-of-rights is final and conclusive, so that the proposals contained in this Chapter cannot be considered to be either new or untried.

"I find I have omitted by oversight one change of some importance which occurs earlier in the Bill: I refer to clauses 50 and 51 of the Bill.

"Clause 51 of the Bill is based on section 84 of Act VIII of 1885, and enables a landlord in certain circumstances to acquire a raiyat's holding for purposes of general utility.

"By clause 50 of the Bill, similarly, it is proposed to authorise raiyats to sell their own holdings or a portion of the same for purposes of general utility without the consent of their landlords with the sanction of the Deputy Commissioner. Provision has at the same time been made for safeguarding the landlords' interests before such transfers are sanctioned.

"Finally, there are two clauses of the Bill to which special attention should be directed, as they involve principles of very great importance.

"I refer to clauses 95 and 134—sub-clauses (*5*) and (*6*). The first of these modifies the effects of Civil and Revenue Courts decrees in regard to certain matters in the areas under settlement. The reason for the insertion of this provision is that it is believed that Revenue-officers inquiring locally into the questions referred to in the section are in a better position to ascertain the actual facts than any Civil or Revenue-officers sitting at head-quarters can be, and the Government desires therefore that the inquiries and decisions of Revenue-officers on the questions referred to should not be unduly hampered or limited owing to the existence of decrees of Civil or Revenue Courts, having in view the fact that such decrees are based on insufficient information. At the same time, it is not proposed to treat these decrees as worthless. They are made relevant evidence of the fact stated therein.

"Sub-clauses (*5*) and (*6*) of clause 134 give the Revenue Courts jurisdiction to entertain certain classes of suits between landlords and cultivating tenants and between landlords and village headmen. Under the existing law, these suits are tried by ordinary Civil Courts.

"It has been found by experience that ignorant aboriginals are not able to meet their landlords on equal terms or to secure justice in the ordinary Civil Courts. It is hoped that Revenue-officers will be in a better position to deal with the cases mentioned in these sub-clauses more satisfactorily, and that they will have more opportunities for ascertaining the actual facts by local inquiry than any Munsif has. In this view, the present sub-clauses were framed. The amendments will, I admit, require most careful consideration in Select Committee.

"I have now discussed the main principles of this Bill, and I cannot, I think, usefully occupy your time by dealing at this stage with the many less important amendments contained therein. Ample opportunity will be given for the discussion of the same in the course of time. All that is necessary I think for me to do at present is to explain shortly the main principles of the Bill and the reasons which have led to the proposals. This I have attempted to do above, and I have now merely to repeat my request for leave to introduce the Bill."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—"Sir, the Bill which has been introduced is much different, both in matter and quality, from the previous Bill which was discussed by the Select Committee in March, 1907, and which has just been withdrawn. The whole of the existing Rent Act of Chota Nagpur has been re-cast by the present Bill, and we feel bound to acknowledge that it is a decided improvement on the previous Bill which was a very meagre and imperfect piece of legislation, drafted with little or no regard for public opinion, and as such it evoked loud complaints from the people whose interests it prejudicially affected. As a matter of fact in discussing the provisions of the said Bill, the Select Committee found that not only several of these were open to objection, but some of them were considered unworkable in their practical operatives, and we are thankful to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for allowing the Bill to be dropped at that stage and giving us further opportunities to consider the provisions of the Bill which was to be substituted in its place.

"Last year about this time a Conference was held at Ranchi which was presided over by the Commissioner of the Division and attended by the Deputy Commissioners and some other officers possessing local experience as also by some representative men of the District of Ranchi, and the revised draft of the Bill was discussed by the Conference in five sittings, in one of which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor presided. To discuss the provisions of a legislative measure at a place where it would operate and amongst people who are directly interested in it, is certainly a right step in the direction of ascertaining its merits and demerits, but unfortunately the procedure adopted in the Conference, namely, to carry every proposal by a majority of votes was not a happy one, and the result was that the protest made by almost all the non official members of the Conference against some very objectionable provisions was negatived by a preponderance of official votes. The object of the Conference was, or at least should have been, to ascertain the views of the local people by a discussion with them directly on the subject and to give due and mature consideration to such views and not to summarily reject them, simply because the votes recorded in favour of their proposals happened to be less than the votes against them. The present Bill has incorporated almost all the provisions of the revised Bill which was discussed in the Conference and also the sections of the existing Rent Act, and as regards the former the Bill has mainly embodied the result of the discussions in the Conference. The provisions of the revised Bill which were open to objection have therefore found their place in the present Bill, but we may express a hope that the Hon'ble Members of the Select Committee will not throw away our objections simply because they were vetoed by the Conference.

"I do not think it would be proper at this stage to enumerate all the provisions of the present Bill which are objectionable, but it may not be altogether out of place to make a few observations on some of the points which are open to very serious objections.

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

"Clause 134 of the Bill purports to reproduce section 37 of the existing Rent Act, but in so doing it has introduced an innovation which, I may say, conflicts with the very fundamental principles which regulates the scope and character of suits cognizable by Revenue Courts. Sub-clause (*5*) of the said clause confers exclusive jurisdiction to Revenue Courts in the trial of suits for recovery of possession of agricultural lands from the cultivator thereof, on the ground that he has no title to occupy the land and is a trespasser; and sub-clause (*6*) also makes a similar encroachment on the jurisdiction of Civil Courts. I would appeal to the experience possessed by the Hon'ble Members of the working of Rent Law in other parts of the country, and ask them to consider how far they can endorse such provisions of the Bill as purport to oust the Civil Courts of their jurisdiction in suits against trespassers and in which complicated questions of title are bound to arise. While in one part of the province the Government is making an attempt to separate the judicial and executive functions in matters criminal, it must be regarded a strange irony of fate so far as another part of the province is concerned that a retrograde step of such a character should be thought necessary.

"Chapter IV of the Bill extends the rights and privileges of a settled raiyat to the raiyats of Chota Nagpur, and although this may be regarded as an innovation so far as Chota Nagpur is concerned, and however much it may be objected to by the landlords, we must say that it is a change for the better, as there is no reason why the rights which have been enjoyed by the raiyats of Bengal and Bihar ever since the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Act should any longer be denied to the raiyats of Chota Nagpur.

"But although we are prepared to lend our hearty support to such provisions of the Bill as are calculated to secure in favour of the raiyats extended and legitimate rights on their raiyati lands, we cannot certainly shut our eyes to the interests of landlords, so far as their *nijjote* lands are concerned. Under the head 'Record of Landlords' Privileged Lands,' we find that no lands in a village, other than those that have been entered as *manjhihas* or *bekhets* in the register prepared under the Chota Nagpur Tenures Act, 1869, shall be recorded as landlords' privileged lands, and that in villages where there have been no demarcation of *manjhihas* lands, the privileged lands will mean a certain description of lands and which are entered as such in the register prepared by a Revenue-officer. If these provisions be read along with clause 17 of the Bill which confers on a settled raiyat, the right of occupancy on all lands held by him as a raiyat and that the accrual of right of occupancy will have restrospective effect from January, 1907, it will appear that the right of the landlords to keep their *nijjote* lands in their *khas* possession will be practically done away with. In making these observations, I do not lose sight of the corresponding provisions in the Bengal Tenancy Act whereby restrospective effect was given from two years before the passing of the said Act, but the circumstances of Chota Nagpur are widely different from those of Bengal and Bihar in this respect. I may say that three-fourths of the Chota Nagpur Division, if not more, is under the management of Wards and Encumbered Estates Department, and all the *khas* lands of the proprietors under such management have been settled with raiyats, as the Managers of such estates do not find it practicable to keep any lands in *khas* cultivation and the Commissioner of the Division issued distinct instructions to the Managers to let all *khas* lands to the raiyats for a term or year by year. The settlements which have been made in respect of such lands have not in many cases yet run out and the effect of allowing the accrual of right of occupancy on such lands will not only lead to a destruction of landlords' cherished rights, but will be conferring privileges to the raiyats which they themselves never thought of enjoying The above remarks apply equally to the cases of other landlords in Chota Nagpur who are not under the management of Wards and Encumbered Estates Departments, as by the general practice prevailing in the division, their *nijjote* lands have mostly been let out on what is called *sajha* or *saika* settlement, and the period of such settlement has not expired in many cases. These provisions will therefore require very careful consideration by the Select Committee.

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

"Clause 59 of the Bill lays down the rate of interest chargeable on arrears of rent which, under the definition as given in the Bill, includes cesses, and this rate for all arrears for a year or more shall not exceed six-and-a-quarter *per cent.* The Bengal Tenancy Act allows twelve and half *per cent.* and the Cess Act allows the same rate and it does not stand to reason why the rate as laid down by the Bill shall not exceed six-and-a-quarter *per cent.*

"I do not think I shall take up any further time of the Council, but I shall make one more observation in regard to clause 1 of the Bill which contemplates a future extension of this Act to the district of Manbhum. In the character of its land tenures and in development of trade and industry and in several other respects, the district of Manbhum is much different from other districts in the division, and the present Bill, unless it is modified to suit the conditions of that district, will be productive of great hardship. It is hoped that when such extension will be decided upon, the people of that district will be allowed sufficient opportunity to lay their views before the Government.

"The Bill has been placed in charge of the Hon'ble Mr. Vincent, an officer of ripe judicial experience and possessor of an intimate knowledge of the part of the country for which the Bill is intended, and we feel sure that in piloting the measure the Hon'ble Member will steer clear of all bias against any particular section of the people, either landlords or raiyats, and that he will be pleased to bestow a patient and careful consideration for our suggestions in the Select Committee."

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"It is a matter of satisfaction to find that many of the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act are going to be introduced into the Chota Nagpur Law. In my humble opinion it would have been very much better if the whole of the Bengal Tenancy Act was introduced in the Chota Nagpur Bill with the addition of a certain number of provisions embodying the customary law of that province. The law relating to landlords, as prevailing in Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas, has not been of a very satisfactory character. The poverty of the people is owing, no doubt, greatly to the poverty of the soil, but to some extent also to the paternal system prevailing there by which free contract is restricted and the flow of capital prevented, except the capital of the coal speculators. It would have been very much better if Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas were regulation districts governed by the same laws which have made the Bengal cultivator prosperous. The constant interference of the Revenue-officers did not make the Bengali cultivator prosperous before 1859.

"It was when the Civil Courts came in, and the system which is now sought to be introduced in Chota Nagpur was abolished in Bengal, that the Bengali cultivator prospered. It is difficult to state all the defects, but the fact remains that from that time alone the prosperity of Bengal dates. I cannot approve of the new provisions by which the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts in very many important matters is being taken away. It is not a move in the right direction. The Chota Nagpur Landlords' Association have objected to a great many provisions of the Act, and I dare say that the Select Committee will carefully consider every one of them. I cannot but congratulate the framers of the Bill on the rights given to non-occupancy raiyats and the restrictions placed on the constant enhancement of rents and other protection for the tenant. The present law of Chota Nagpur has mainly caused a very large proportion of the population to migrate to the tea gardens, and more than three-fourths of the landlords are insolvents under the present conditions. I do not believe that the constant paternal care of the Revenue-officers has been conducive to the good of the country, and I should very much like to have the same system prevailing there as in Bengal."

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said:—"I had not intended at this stage to take part in the discussion, particularly as I see from the Agenda that I shall have the honor of taking part in the proceedings

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari; Mr. Vincent.*]

of the Select Committee. But I cannot, however, refrain from observing from the discussion we have just listened to, that there is undoubtedly a feeling in some quarters that the Bill does not go far enough, and in others that the Bill goes quite the other way. Although there have been Conferences at Ranchi, there is no doubt that the matter has not been as fully threshed out as it might have been and ought to be. Taking part in the proceedings of the Select Committee, I shall be very sorry two years hence to have it said that the Bill is incomplete, or to have used language with reference to it such as has been heard in the neighbourhood of this table and even by the Hon'ble member in charge of the present Bill. It therefore appears to me that this, like many another measure that has been similarly characterised, is one that should not be hurried through either in the Select Committee or the Council, and the point I should like to submit to the Council at this stage is that more time should be given for the consideration of the matter in the Select Committee than it was proposed to give so far as I can gather from the proposal about to be submitted for the acceptance of the Council.

"Reference has been made to the benefits derived from a discussion of matters locally, and it has been stated that more than one local conference has been held. Such a procedure is likely to be beneficial to all concerned, but it may be a matter for consideration, even now, whether further information should not be similarly obtained before the matter is finally disposed of. Of course as regards time I do not think that considerations of the character that the period of deputation of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill is limited, will be allowed to influence the situation.

"There is another matter which I would like to refer to at this stage, and that is with regard to the Sonthal Parganas, which will have the benefits neither of the Bengal Tenancy Act nor of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, although the Parganas are in many ways closely allied to Chota Nagpur. Attention to this matter was drawn by the Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Nath Mookerjee, and it was thought that when the consideration of the Chota Nagpur Bill would be brought up, the position of the Sonthal Parganas would also be considered. The question is whether that should not be taken up at an early and convenient time, and whether it is not convenient to be taken up with this Bill. Regarding other matters, I should not make any observations just now: there will be time enough in the Select Committee. I will, however, say that having regard to the very divergent opinions still prevailing with regard to the amended Bill, the Select Committee should have much more time to consider the matter than is proposed to be given."

The Hon'ble Mr. Vincent in reply said:—"I should like to reply very briefly to one or two criticisms that have been offered on this Bill. I am very grateful to the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh for the very kindly manner in which he has spoken of me and also I think I may say for the moderate manner in which his criticisms of the Bill, have been worded.

"It was unfortunate, however, that he did not specify the particular proposals which were carried at the Ranchi Conference by a majority of officials. The only specific point to which he referred was that of landlords' privileged lands. I think I am right in saying that the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh was one of the members who accepted the proposals on this point made at the Conference which are embodied in the Bill. I agree very distinctly with him that section 134, sub-clauses (*5*) and (*6*), and the other section I referred to which modifies the effect of Civil Court decrees should be very carefully considered in the Select Committee. I have stated so in my opening address and it will be so considered.

"I think in regard to one detail the Hon'ble Member is in error, and that is in supposing that instalments of rent only bear interest at six-and-a-quarter *per cent.* Clause 59 lays down that 'any instalment of rent which is not paid before sunset of the day when the same is payable shall be deemed an arrear of rent, and shall be liable to simple interest not exceeding twelve-and-a-half *per centum per annum*,' and not six-and-a-quarter *per cent.* The proviso

is 'that the interest for the entire year in which any arrear accrues shall not exceed six-and-a-quarter *per cent.*' If a raiyat pays his annual rent within the year, he shall not be called upon to pay more than six-and-a-quarter *per cent.* for that year. The second clause was put in to meet the case of certain landlords who have a system of collection by monthly kists who charge an exorbitant rate of interest. I do not think if the demands are paid within the year, that six-and-a-quarter *per cent.* is unreasonable.

"The Bill has not been extended to Manbhum as yet, and before it is extended there is no doubt that the Local Government will very carefully consider the local conditions. Act X of 1859 is, however, very defective in many details, and if this Act is not extended to Manbhum, then it will be necessary to frame a special Act for that district.

"Another Hon'ble Member proposed the extension of the Bengal Tenancy Act and, in fact, I think he went further and said that all non-regulation districts should be made regulation districts. I think it is not very relevant to this discussion whether non-regulation districts should be made regulation districts, and I do not propose to enter upon that question.

"The extension of Act VIII of 1885 to this division was considered very carefully, and those sections which are applicable and suited to local conditions have been incorporated in the Bill. I found it a little difficult to follow the Hon'ble Member in regard to Act X of 1859. He said that the prosperity of the agricultural population in Bengal began after Act X had been repealed. I am not aware if this is a fact or not. He then proceeded to say that we were introducing Act X of 1859 into Chota Nagpur. This is not so, and is a statement founded on an entire misapprehension of facts. We do not seek to introduce that Act into any part of Chota Nagpur; in fact power has been obtained to repeal that Act in the district of Manbhum; so that if the repeal of that Act was sufficient to gain prosperity for the agriculturists in Bengal, then the raiyats in Chota Nagpur will have the same advantages as their brethren elsewhere.

"One Hon'ble Member has referred to the time given for the discussion of this Bill in Select Committee. The time put down is only approximate, and if necessary will undoubtedly be extended. It is not the intention of Government to hurry through this Bill either in Select Committee or in Council, but having regard to the fact that the majority of the amendments proposed have been thoroughly discussed at great length at the Conferences already mentioned, the period put down for the presentation of the Select Committee's Report was merely an approximate one. Those sections which have been taken bodily from the Bengal Tenancy Act and introduced into this Bill cannot be the subject of any prolonged discussion, nor do I anticipate that it will be necessary to discuss at any very great length those portions of Act I of 1879 which will remain in force in the division. The remaining portions are not very long and I think, that we may be able to finish in the time described. If it is not done within the time, there will be no objection to an extension being allowed. As for discussing the Bill locally, the only place where it can be discussed is Ranchi, and it has been discussed there at very great length, and I think we shall have to consult the convenience of the other Members of the Committee before making any pronouncement on the matter.

"Lastly, it has been suggested that this legislation should be extended to the Sonthal Parganas, and if I understood the Hon'ble Member correctly, he said a proposal on this point was previously made to Government. No proposal of this kind has, so far as I am aware, been made to Government; nor can the Government make the Act applicable to the Sonthal Parganas without long and detailed inquiries as to the local conditions there. It is very doubtful whether it could be applied with advantage, and the inquiries that would have to be made would be of such a nature that the matter under discussion would be unduly delayed."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

[*Mr. Vincent.*]

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT also introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council.

The motion was put and agreed to, and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT also moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Greer, the Hon'ble Mr. Duke, the Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild, the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh, the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan, the Hon'blo Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari and the Mover, with instructions to report at the meeting of Council to be held on the 5th September, 1908.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned to Saturday, the 22nd August 1908.

CALCUTTA;
The 11th September, 1908.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

B. S. Press—15 9-1908—2380J—300—H. C. and others.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 22nd August, 1908, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. R. T. GREER, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. W. H. H. VINCENT.

The Hon'ble MR. S. P. SINHA, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble MR. F. W. DUKE.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, KT.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR, OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

The Hon'ble MR. W. BROWN.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon'ble MR. W. BROWN and the Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL took their seats in Council.

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

HINDI CHAIR IN THE PRESIDENCY COLLEGE.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said :—

In view of the facts—

(*1*) that under the new Regulations of the Calcutta University, vernacular has been made compulsory up to the B.A. standard;

(*2*) that a Bengali chair has consequently been established in the Presidency College;

(*3*) that the Presidency College is the premier institution of the kind in the province;

(*4*) that there are students with Hindi as their vernacular studying in the College;

(*5*) that no provision has been made for coaching them in Hindi; and

(*6*) that the session has already advanced too far,

will the Government be pleased to create a Hindi chair, without avoidable delay, in the College ?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied :—

"Instruction in the vernacular is not actually required by the University Regulations. The University test is practically in composition only, and its sole object is to ensure that students keep up such a knowledge of their own vernacular as to be able to express themselves clearly in it. The number of Hindi-speaking students in the Presidency College is exceedingly small. In the circumstances, the creation of a chair in Hindi does not appear at present to be called for."

THE BENGAL LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM presented the further Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that the Report which was presented in Council on the 9th March, 1907, and the further Report be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that the clauses of the Bill be considered in the form recommended by the Select Committee. He said :—

"It will be expected that I should say a few words of introduction to the measure now before the Council, as the Bill has been pending for many years and has come before this Council on three separate occasions.

"The question of the amendment of this Act first arose at the close of 1895, in connexion with a Resolution issued by the Government of India on the subject of the organization of a separate Veterinary establishment in India, in which that Government expressed the view that if, under the existing law, local bodies could not contribute towards the maintenance of veterinary projects, the law should be amended. A Bill was accordingly drawn up in the beginning of 1896, with the object of enabling District Boards to devote some portion of their funds to the establishment and maintenance of Veterinary Dispensaries and to the improvement of the breed of horses and cattle, and the prevention and cure of horse and cattle diseases. The opportunity was

taken of adding provisions to empower District Boards to spend money on the training and employment of medical practitioners and the promotion of free vaccination. The Bill was introduced in Council in the spring of 1896.

"The prevailing scarcity of drinking-water during the summer of the same year drew the attention of Government to the necessity for dealing with the subject of village water-supply in a systematic manner, and this led to the question of village sanitation generally, and to the necessity for raising further funds for the purpose. The Bill, however, was not proceeded with, in consideration, amongst other reasons, of the famine and scarcity of 1896-97, and the possibility, which was then being considered, of the separation of Local from Provincial finance.

"The question of amending the Act was again taken up in 1901, in connexion with a proposal to authorize the levy of tolls on new bridges, until the initial cost and capitalized value of the cost of maintenance or renewal had been recovered. In 1902, a fresh draft Bill was prepared, incorporating provisions with this object, and including the provisions in the Bill introduced in 1896, as well as others. This Bill was again revised and expanded in accordance with certain suggestions made by the Government of India; and a fresh Bill was introduced in this Council by the Hon'ble Mr. Shirres in March, 1904. This Bill was subsequently withdrawn, and another Bill prepared in 1905 containing a number of further provisions, among which the most important were—

(1) to prohibit the diversion of the road-cess to purposes other than those enumerated in section 109 of the Cess Act;

(2) to authorize the imposition of a cess for the purpose of guaranteeing interest on money borrowed for the construction of railways;

(3) to delegate formally to Commissioners of Divisions certain powers which practically, though not nominally, are at present exercised by them;

(4) to improve the position of Union Committees; and

(5) to legalize expenditure from the District Fund on minor works of irrigation.

"After further correspondence with the Government of India, certain modifications were made in the Bill; the provisions in regard to ear-marking the road-cess were omitted, and a new Bill was drawn up and introduced in Council by the Hon'ble Mr. McIntosh in November, 1906. The Bill was referred to a Select Committee, and their Report was presented to this Council on the 9th March, 1907. This Committee recommended that, in view of the very decided opposition to the provisions empowering the Boards to impose a cess to meet payments due in respect of a railway or tramway, these clauses should be omitted. They were accordingly excluded from the Bill.

"After the submission of this Report of the Select Committee, the consideration of the Bill was postponed by His Honour the President, in order that steps might be taken to insert provisions for—

(1) the ear-marking of the road-cess for the objects for which it is collected, and

(2) giving local Union Committees further powers in respect of measures of sanitation, conservancy, drainage and water-supply, and empowering them to supplement the funds available for such improvements by permissive local taxation.

"The Government of India have recently accepted the recommendation of this Government in regard to prohibiting the diversion of the road-cess, with one condition; and they have approved generally of the proposals framed with a view to enlarging the powers and responsibilities of Union Committees. Additional clauses were consequently drafted, as explained by me at the meeting of this Council held on the 11th July last; and the Bill was re-committed to the Select Committee. The further Report of the Select Committee I have presented to the Council to-day.

[*Mr. Oldham ; Babu Gajadhar Prasad.*]

"It will thus be seen that this Bill, which originally started in a short draft of a few clauses now nearly 13 years ago, has gone on growing like a snow-ball, but with many vicissitudes, till it has attained its present dimensions and form. From a Bill framed merely for the purpose of enabling District Boards to contribute towards veterinary measures, it has developed into a long Bill of sixty-four clauses, dealing with nearly all portions of the Act, and containing many provisions of far-reaching importance. I trust that it has now reached its final stage.

"Omitting the numerous provisions inserted with the object of removing defects and supplying omissions which many years' experience of the working of the Act has brought to light, I may mention the following as some of the more important objects of the Bill :—

(1) to legalize the expenditure of District Board Funds on the establishment and maintenance of Veterinary Dispensaries, the entertainment of Veterinary Assistants and the improvement of the breed of cattle and horses ;

(2) to permit District Boards to contribute towards the training and employment of medical practitioners, and the promoting of free vaccination ;

(3) to authorize the levy of tolls on newly-constructed bridges;

(4) to formally delegate to Commissioners powers which they practically, though not nominally, exercise at present ;

(5) to enable District Boards to spend money on tanks and wells which are not the property or under the control of the Board, and, in the case of famine or scarcity, on minor works of irrigation;

(6) to permit District Boards to contribute towards the construction and maintenance of hostels attached to private educational institutions of all kinds, to constitute Education Committees and to enable Government to transfer funds to District Boards for this purpose ;

(7) to legalize the expenditure of the District Fund on the construction of residences for the District Engineer, and the payment of advances to members of their establishment for the acquisition or construction of residences ;

(8) to make it obligatory for every District Board to form a Sanitation Committee and appoint a Sanitary Inspector ;

(9) to give to Union Committees certain important powers in respect of local sanitation, drainage and water-supply, and

(10) to prevent the diversion of the road-cess to purposes other than those enumerated in the Cess Act.

"A copy of the new Bill was circulated to important Associations, with the encouraging result that several useful suggestions have been received, and but little adverse criticism has been offered. The provisions, in regard to the earmarking of the road-cess, appear to have met with universal commendation. I have adopted a few of the suggestions in some of the amendments which stand in my name."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said :—"May it please Your Honour—I am satisfied with the Bill which the Select Committee have presented to the Council. I do not desire to object to any provision in the Bill, but I propose the addition of a provision which in my opinion seems necessary.

"There is a provision in section 28 of the Municipal Act relating to the granting of allowance to the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality. I propose the introduction into the Bill of a clause similar to section 28 of the Municipal Act.

[*Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Mr. Oldham; Maharajadhiraja Bahadur, of Burdwan.*]

"In support of my proposal, I beg leave to say that the work of District Boards will be further multiplied by the operation of the Local Self-Government Amendment Act, which gives additional powers to District Boards and imposes on them corresponding liabilities.

"The nature of the work requires an energetic whole-time Vice-Chairman, and no competent non-official member will be very willing to serve gratuitously. The duties of the Vice-Chairman of the District Board are becoming more and more onerous day by day. The Vice-Chairmen are generally honorary. It is reasonable, therefore, that the District Board should be empowered to grant allowance to the Vice-Chairman. By this I do not mean that every Vice-Chairman should get some allowance; but I certainly mean that if a Vice-Chairman efficiently discharges his duty, and if the District Board thinks fit to grant some allowance to him, the District Board must have the necessary powers. The allowance is a legitimate charge on the District Fund, being one incurred in the performance of the duties imposed by the Act.

"There is also another point which deserves notice. The District Boards are generally more solvent than the Municipalities, and the District Board Vice-Chairman may have to go out on out-door work, and to travel longer distances than a Municipal Vice-Chairman.

"I wish to move—

(1) that after clause 9 (*now* 11)* of the Bill the following be inserted, namely:—

> 9A. At the end of section 23 of the said Act, the following shall be inserted, namely:—
>
> 'The Vice-Chairman of a District Board may, if the Board thinks fit, receive such allowance as may be fixed by it at a meeting; and

(2) that after clause 26 (*1a*) [*now* 27 (*1*)] of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely:—

> In the first line of clause *fourthly* of the said section 53, after the word 'payment,' the words 'of the allowance of the Vice-Chairman of the District Board fixed under section 23 of this Act and' shall be inserted. "

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"I am afraid these amendments cannot be accepted. Hitherto, the Vice-Chairmen of District Boards have generously performed their duties without any pecuniary recompense. To pay them for the performance of these duties would undoubtedly amount to a change of principle, and as such would require the approval of the Government of India. To make such a reference now would mean the further postponement of this Bill; and even were the Government of India to agree to such a change in principle, the Bill could not be passed during the current session. I think it will be the sense of this Council that this very long pending measure should not be further delayed on account of a proposal, the propriety of which is open to considerable doubt."

The motion was put and lost.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR, OF BURDWAN, said:—"Before moving the amendments standing against my name, I beg to make a few observations on the Bill that we are about to pass into law to-day. It is a matter of gratification to all of us, who take a keen interest in the welfare of the villagers of Bengal, to find that important sections and clauses have been inserted in the present Bill to improve the sanitary conditions of rural Bengal.

"It is a great Government, Sir, that gives medical aid to the people, but it is a greater Government that also sees to the health of its subjects; as we all know, to comfort the sick and ailing is a noble thing, but it is a nobler endeavour to try and eradicate sickness.

* The clauses and sub-clauses of the Bill having been re-numbered under the direction of the Council, the present number of each clause and sub-clause is inserted in brackets, wherever the new numbering differs from the old.

[*Maharajadhiraja Bahadar, of Burdwan ; Mr. Oldham ; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

"The Union Committees, and specially the Sanitation Committee of the District Board, should have picked men on their respective bodies, because otherwise the larger powers that are now being given may, instead of becoming a boon, prove to be a source of oppression and unnecessary annoyance to the villagers and the public at large.

"To those who constantly clamour for more self-government in this country, the amended enactment before us ought to give satisfaction. Here, in this Bill, we have splendid opportunities of showing what capacities we Indians have in managing our own affairs, and I hope, therefore, that those who will be entrusted with the new powers that are being given now, will wield them with ability and usefulness.

"The Indian atmosphere just now seems to be surcharged with outcries for more political powers. No doubt the country is awakening; but this new current of ambition should be watched carefully, so that it might not come as a sudden and rude shock to the awakened and the awakeners. Aspirations for self-government can only be healthy for us, if we Indians realize once for all that such things, though very desirable, cannot be demanded, for they have to be deserved. In conclusion, I heartily congratulate the Government on having recognized the absolute necessity of proper village-sanitation in Bengal.

"I beg now to move that to section 41A, in clause 20 (*now* 22) of the Bill, the following be added, namely :—

(*2*) The election of any person to be Chairman of a Union Committee shall be subject to the approval of the District Board.

(*3*) If a Chairman of a Union Committee be not elected within the period prescribed in this behalf by rule made under clause (*c*) of section 138 of this Act, the District Board shall appoint a member of the Committee to be Chairman."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"I am prepared to accept both of the proposals of the Hon'ble Member contained in his motion. It is very desirable that, if the Union Committee should fail to elect a Chairman, the District Board should have power to appoint one."

There being no opposition, the Hon'ble the President declared the motion carried.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR, OF BURDWAN, by leave of the Council, withdrew the following motion of which he had given notice, namely :—

That in section 99A, in clause 44 (*now* 47) of the Bill, after the words 'irrigation work,' where they first occur, the words '(other than a canal)' be inserted.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR, OF BURDWAN, also moved that the following be added to clause 48 (*now* 51) of the Bill, namely:—

(*3*) After the word 'road,' in clauses (*c*) and (*d*) of the said section 109, the words 'or bridge thereon' shall be inserted.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM, having accepted the amendment, the Hon'ble the President declared the motion carried.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that after proviso (*1*) (*a*) to section 86A, in clause 41 (*now* 43) of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely:—

(*aa*) the expenses incurred by the District Board in paying compensation to the owner of any private ferry for the partial or complete loss of income from such ferry, and in recouping itself for the partial or complete loss of receipts in respect of any public ferry referred to in clause (*4*) of section 52, when such loss results in either case from the construction of such bridge, or the construction or widening of such road-way or foot-way.

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

He said:—"It will sometimes so happen that the construction of these bridges will injuriously affect some of the private ferries or some of the public ferries, or even at times lead to their extinction. The law on the point is quite clear, that when private ferries are injuriously affected or become extinct in consequence of the construction of bridges, the owner of the private ferry is, under certain circumstances, entitled to ask compensation from the District Board. In order to obviate all doubt on the point I shall refer to a District Board case reported in Volume 25, Indian Law Reports, Calcutta Series. On page 346 of that volume, the head-note runs thus:—

The District Board of Dinajpore erected a bridge over the river Tulai in consequence of the erection of which ferry, which was within 100 cubits of the bridge and owned by the Maharaja of Dinajpore, who was also the owner of the land taken for construction of the bridge, ceased to exist: Held, that the owner of the ferry was entitled under the Land Acquisition Act to compensation for the loss of the ferry.

"There is another case reported in Volume 34 of the same series, page 485. There the learned Judges observed that:—

In other words, where the ferry landing and the ferry franchise remain precisely as before, though the profits are liable to be depreciated by the new mode of travel legitimately created, no compensation can be claimed; but where by reason of the acquisition itself the exercise of the franchise, or the use of the property pertaining to the franchise, is interfered with, damages can be rightly claimed.

"Now some of these cases clearly go to show that under certain circumstances owners of private ferries will be entitled to compensation if their ferries are affected by the construction of these bridges. But oftener it will happen that District Boards will be deprived of the income derived from private ferries. The income of ferries we all know go to serve useful purposes by helping the District Boards to promote sanitation and primary education in the area over which the District Boards have jurisdiction. Sir, in the new Bill there are several onerous duties imposed upon the District Board, which will necessitate a large expenditure of money. If the District Boards were to lose the income of the private ferries it would be found that there would be less money available for sanitary purposes, and its resources, which would be crippled. Such a crippling of the funds would be undesirable. I think any one that has gone through the various opinions that have been given upon the Bill, in response to Your Honour's invitation asking for an expression of opinion, will find that there is much reluctance on the part of several Associations to the establishment of a toll-bar. They seem to think that it will be a grievous burden on the people and they go further and say it will hamper internal trade. I am not in sympathy with these persons at all; on the contrary, I welcome the introduction of this portion of the measure, for without the levy of a toll it will be absolutely impossible in the present stage of finance of the District Boards to undertake the construction of expensive projects.

"Sir, from those opinions which I have already referred to, Your Honour will be pleased to see that there will be many Members of District Boards who will not cherish the idea and who would naturally be reluctant to vote for the establishment of a toll-bar, for the purpose of constructing a bridge. They will be able to add emphasis to their opposition by pointing out the fact that the Road-Cess Fund will be encroached upon on account of the District Board being liable to pay compensation to owners of private ferries, or there would be a loss of revenue which would retard the promotion of sanitary welfare. The amendment which I propose will really mean the prolongation of the period during which the toll will be collected. One who has any experience of the working of tolls in this country, and I think things are very much the same in other countries, is aware that the opposition and repugnance arises at the very outset; but after they get accustomed to the thing they do not feel the inconvenience due to the paying of tolls, and surely if the period of the levy of tolls is prolonged inconvenience will not be felt by the people. I think, Sir, for these reasons it is inadvisable to cripple the resources of the District Board, which will be the result as I have attempted to point out. I, therefore, submit this amendment for your favourable acceptance."

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh ; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari ; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose ; Babu Radha Charan Pal ; Mr. Oldham ; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—"It seems to me that the owners of private ferries will be entitled to compensation under the circumstances referred to in the amendment which is proposed. The cases to which reference has been made by the mover of this amendment settles this point, and I think the expenses incurred should be paid by the District Board. This can be provided for in the Act, and I think the proper place for a provision like this will be in section 86(*a*)."

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said:—"In supporting this amendment, I ask permission to withdraw the amendment in my name which is similar in effect. At the time I was not aware of the fact that my hon'ble friend had sent in this amendment; otherwise it would not have been necessary for me to send in this amendment, though it is larger in scope. In sending in my amendment I had contemplated cases, in which for some reason or other the establishment of a toll-bar would not be possible. But having listened to the Hon'ble Member, I think that the greater portion of my amendment would be covered by his amendment. And I do not think it necessary to press for the acceptance of the remainder of my amendment. I, therefore, beg leave to withdraw my amendment."

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"I am afraid that there is some misapprehension on the part of the mover of this amendment. The last case to which he has referred shows clearly that no owner of a ferry is entitled to compensation on account of the making of improved means of communication which may reduce his profits. The case is not only not in his favour, but clearly against him.

"I can quite sympathize with landlords and owners of ferries who will incur some loss if bridges are made, and if the Government so chooses it may grant them compensation; but this compensation has to be paid by the District Boards. When such an expensive work as a bridge is made it must be made at the cost of the whole district. In such a case, I think it reasonable that private owners of ferries might incur some loss for the good of the public."

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said:—"I support the amendment of my hon'ble friend, Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, and I fail to understand the opposition of my friend on the right. It has been clearly stated by my friend, the mover of the amendment, that it is just and proper if the owner of a ferry is deprived partially or wholly of a loss of income to which he was entitled on account of the construction of a bridge or the widening of a road-way or foot-way he should be compensated. The case which has just been quoted by my friend, the Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, fully supports his contention, and the opposition of my friend on the right and the arguments he has adduced do not in any way convince me that the amendment is not necessary. As far as I understand, he says that the owner of a ferry ought to suffer some loss on account of some improvements by which the District Board benefits. It ought not to be forgotten that the owner of a ferry has obtained this privilege on payment of a certain amount of rent. If then he is deprived of that source of income, or his income is diminished in any way, he is entitled to compensation. I think, therefore, this is a perfectly fair proposal which ought to commend itself to the Hon'ble Members for acceptance."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM having accepted the amendment, the Hon'ble the President declared the motion carried.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, also moved that in proviso (2) to the said section 86A, in clause 41 (*now* 43) of the Bill, after the letter "*a*" the letters "*aa*" be inserted.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM having accepted the amendment, the Hon'ble the President declared the motion carried.

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur; Mr. Oldham.*]

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, also moved that after clause (*a*) of section 86L, in clause 41 (*now* 43) of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely :—

(*aa*) the amount of the expenses incurred by the District Board in paying compensation to the owner of any private ferry for the partial or complete loss of income from such ferry, and in recouping itself for the partial or complete loss of receipts in respect of any public ferry referred to in clause (*i*) of section 52, when such loss results in either case from the construction of such bridge, or the construction or widening of such road-way or foot-way.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM having accepted the amendment, the Hon'ble the President declared the motion carried.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, also moved that clause 42 (*now* 44) of the Bill be omitted. He said :—

"I move this amendment not without considerable hesitation. I have not been quite able to realize the object of introducing this provision whether the object is to enable District Boards to make such contributions or to safeguard any grant resolved upon by the District Board, by the sanction of Your Honour, I do not know. I have not been quite able to realize the exact object for which section 88A has been enacted. The reason why this hesitation arises is this, that under the present law there is no provision for a grant for water-supply or grants of contributions for construction or maintenance of water-works within municipal areas. As a matter of fact, several grants for water-supply within municipal areas have been made, and they are appreciatively referred to in the Government Resolution on the working of the District Boards. I think, Sir, that the diversion of money derived from rural areas and from a rural population to purposes which will tend to ameliorate the sanitary condition of the people residing within the town is wrong in principle. Your Honour will also be pleased to remember that there is no provision in the Municipal Act, by which a municipality can reciprocate in a similar generous manner for the benefit of the rural areas. It is notorious that the water supply in areas within the jurisdiction of the District Board is inefficient; there is also some apathy on the part of District Boards to improve the water-supply and strictures have been passed on them in the Government Resolution on the working of District Boards. In recent times, the tendency to make such grants for the improvement of water-works or the construction of water-works within municipal areas has been very much in evidence, and I think it is becoming a growing tendency. I shall remind Your Honour of what has been said in the Bengal Administration Report of 1906, with regard to water-supply :—

The total expenditure increased by Rs. 29,976, or by about 28 *per cent.*, but the increase occurred wholly in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, where the expenditure was almost doubled; in the rest of the Province, there was a decline in expenditure. The District Boards of Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Palamau incurred no expenditure under this head; while in Howrah, out of the budget provision of Rs. 3,000, only Rs. 678 were spent against Rs. 464 spent in the previous year out of the similar budget provision. In the Presidency Division, the expenditure increased by Rs. 21,839. In Nadia, 21 wells were completed and 12 more taken in hand, while Rs. 1,099 were spent as interest on loans taken under the Land Improvement Act. In Jessore, 23 tanks were excavated at a cost of Rs. 14,014, and 5 wells were made. In Khulna, seven tanks were completed, work to the amount of Rs. 9,628 done on eight others, and 20 tanks were taken up under the grants-in-aid system at a cost of Rs. 7,349. In Gaya, the District Board made a grant of one lakh of rupees to the Gaya Municipality towards the water-works scheme, and in Monghyr the District Board paid during the year a second instalment of Rs. 10,000 out of the promised contribution of Rs. 30,000, towards the Victoria Water-Works in the town of Monghyr. Out of a total allotment of Rs. 1,500 made by the Sambalpur District Council under this head to the two tahsils, only Rs. 450 were brought to account.

"It is well-known, Sir, that whenever any scheme for water-supply is conceived in respect of any Municipal town, there is always a very keen scramble for the collection of money to pay the capital expenditure. We all know that it is only by the imposition of the highest water-tax under the law that the bare cost of maintenance can be met. On these occasions it is

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Babu Radha Charan Pal.*]

usual to approach the Government to make generous grants; and also local munificence is appealed to. The response is not always equal to expectations cherished. When some amount is secured there is always a scramble to get more, and the only possible source they can look to is the District Board. The District Magistrate, naturally, and if I may be permitted to say so, very properly, takes a keen interest whenever any scheme for water-supply within municipal areas is brought forward. He naturally would have an inclination to see that a portion of the District Fund, devoted to that purpose. It is also a notorious fact that most of the influential Members of District Boards, who are residents within municipal areas, are personally interested in having a water-supply in the place where they reside. It is, therefore, not at all difficult to get a resolution passed by a District Board such as it is constituted, to apply, and, without meaning any disrespect,—I say misapply, the money of the District Fund for promoting the sanitary welfare of towns, especially district towns. I think, Sir, Your Honour will set your face against such a diversion of money of the District Boards, whose wants are daily growing, but the growth of whose resources are not keeping pace with the numerous works they are entrusted with.

"With these words, I beg to move that this clause be omitted. I understand that by the omission of this clause it would not be possible for the District Boards to spend any money for a purpose like this. I am not quite sure if the Boards can legally spend any money of their own for the purpose of water-works in towns even if section 88A be omitted. It is only for that reason and apprehending that District Boards will spend money for water-works in towns as they have hitherto done, even if section 88A be omitted, that I have proposed an alternative amendment."

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"I have much pleasure in seconding the amendment so ably moved by my friend, the Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur. I understand that amendments to this effect stood in the name of several Members when the first Report of the Select Committee was presented. It is well-known that the resources of many of the important districts in these provinces have been very much crippled by the inclusion of the water-works into the accounts. I do not agree that water works are outside the scope of beneficent works of District Boards, because a very large proportion of the population of the district live there and have to go there. The unhealthiness of a district is a matter of serious importance to the people. But while conceding that the District Board might continue the maintenance of water-works from District accounts, it must not be forgotten that the resources in command of District Boards are so limited that they could ill-afford to make any such contributions. I believe that the Government will in future help in the construction of water-works and their maintenance as generously as Your Honour has done during Your Honour's tenure of office, and I hope that the District Boards will not continue to provide anything out of their scanty resources for the construction and maintenance of water-works."

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said:—"In connexion with this amendment, I regret that I cannot support my hon'ble friend, Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, although in this matter I find that my hon'ble friend on my right has enthusiastically supported it. Sir, I have followed with great interest the arguments adduced by my hon'ble friend, Rai Kishori Lal Goswami and his supporter, my hon'ble friend, Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose. Both contend that the District Boards are not in a position to contribute to the maintenance of water-works, wells or tanks in the Districts; but the question is this, if they are not in a position to contribute, who asked them to do so? The Bill, as drafted, clearly gives the District Board discretionary power: if they are able to contribute they will do so, with the consent of the majority of the Members of the District Boards; and even then their hands are fettered. It is

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal; Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

only with the sanction of he Local Government that they can contribute: so my hon'ble friend will see that it is not compulsory on the part of District Boards to contribute for the maintenance of water-works in the District. It is said that the District Magistrate naturally takes great interest in the Municipality and he is the President of the District Board. It is just and proper that he should. The District Boards are comparatively rich bodies and the Municipalities poor bodies, and therefore it is only right that the District Magistrate who looks to the well being of his own District would try to help the Municipalities. Then, Sir, we are well aware that the Municipalities, generally speaking—not even excepting the Calcutta Municipality—have to strain their utmost to carry out the various requirements of the Act. Even so rich a Municipality, as the Calcutta Municipality, has not sufficient funds to carry into completion the various necessary works for the sanitation of the town, and when the Council is discussing the Budget then I shall perhaps ask for funds for the Calcutta Municipality. While we are thankful to many philanthropic gentlemen for their munificence, I fail to understand why we should not avail ourselves of the resources of District Funds when they are in a position to contribute towards beneficent works which will benefit the whole district.

"Under these circumstances, I do not think that this section ought to be deleted from the Bill, but it should be retained."

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said:—"I think it is my duty to bring to Your Honour's notice that I have served on the Municipality and the District Board of Patna for about 25 years, and I still belong to both these bodies, and my experience, judging from the Patna district, is that District Boards are always solvent and Municipalities are always in want of money. Residents of districts are interested in the sanitation of their head-quarters. Your Honour is aware that zamindars and raiyats have frequently to attend Courts and have to attend to other business at head-quarters. Then, the members of District Boards and members of other associations have often to go to head-quarters. It is, therefore, in their interests to see that the town or head-quarter is in a sanitary condition. Your Honour is aware that epidemics are more prevalent in towns than in villages, and I think therefore that District Boards should always be allowed to contribute towards the sanitation of the towns. There is the safeguard and it is a very proper safeguard, that the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor is necessary for this purpose. The Government will not allow District Boards to contribute when they themselves are in want."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—"I wish very much to say that all District Boards are not like the Patna District Board, of which my friend is the President. I unfortunately come from a part of the country where District Boards have always been found to have insufficient funds to meet the cost of works, which legitimately fall within the scope of the Boards. Sir, in this Council we have, during Budget discussions, dealt with sanitation in rural areas, especially as regards water-works which are very much neglected, or rather the District Boards find it impossible to carry out that work in the manner they would like. When we remember this, I cannot certainly go against the amendment moved by my hon'ble friend, Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, and I think that the District Board should be confined to the very necessary purposes for which the fund was created, although I do not go so far as to say that any contributions made by the District Boards to any water-works in municipal areas is a mis-application of that fund. Certainly I say, regard being had to the interest of rural areas, a contribution is unnecessary. A Municipal Board can very well take care of the areas in its charge, and District Boards should primarily hold all its funds for all works which are in the legitimate scope of that Board. My friend, the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal, has pointed out one fact, that section 88A does not make it compulsory on the District Board to make a contribution and, to safeguard this, section 88A will be allowed to stand in the Bill. District Boards will too frequently be led to the belief that this provision has been specially

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Mr. Oldham; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

enacted that District Funds should be applied to the work comtemplated by section 88A. I do not agree, therefore, with my hon'ble friend, Babu Radha Charan Pal, that section 88A should be allowed to stand. So I certainly support the amendment moved by the Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"Government cannot accept this amendment. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Kishori Lal Goswami has said that he cannot understand why this provision should have been inserted. I can explain this to him. Clause 42 (*now* 44) was inserted in this Bill in its earlier stages, with the object of legalizing contributions from the District Fund towards the improvement of the water-supply in municipalities situated within the district. The legality of such a contribution formed the subject of discussion in 1893, when a contribution was made for such a purpose by the District Board of Shahabad to the Municipality of Arrah. The Legal Remembrancer at the time gave his opinion that such a contribution was legal; but it seemed to Government that this opinion might at any time be called in question, in view of the declaration in section 1 that the Act shall not extend to any place or town to which the provisions of the Bengal Municipal Act have been extended. The object is clearly one to which a portion of the District Fund may very properly be devoted, since a pure water-supply in a municipality is a benefit to the district generally, and an outbreak of infectious disease caused by an impure water-supply within a municipal area may result in the spread of the disease to all parts of the district. It has been provided, as a safeguard, that any such contribution shall be subject to the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor.

"The Hon'ble Member who has moved this amendment has read out certain figures in the cases of Gaya and Monghyr, comparing the amounts contributed towards the water-works with the amounts spent on original works. He has forgotten to point out that one class of expenditure is recurring, and one non-recurring.

"The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose has said that he knows that many Boards have been crippled by contributing to the establishment of water-works. He has carefully avoided mentioning the name of any such District Board. I do not know to which Boards he refers. I am not aware of any such case. Both these gentlemen have spoken as if District Boards would be compelled to make such contributions; but as the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal has pointed out, it is entirely optional with them to do so.

"In fact I am astonished, Sir, that a merely permissive provision of this nature should have given rise to the remarks that have fallen from some of the Members to-day.

"The Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh assumes that rural areas will be neglected for urban areas; but I would point out to the Hon'ble Member that we are specially providing elsewhere in this very Bill for the improvement of water-supply in rural areas."

The motion was then put and lost.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, also moved that the following proviso be added to section 88A, in clause 42 (*now* 44) of the Bill:—

> Provided that no application for such sanction shall be made unless it is authorized by a resolution which has been passed at a meeting specially convened for the purpose and in favour of which a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the District Board have voted.

He said:—"I have already referred to the personal composition of District Boards which is peculiarly favourable to making grants for water-supply within rural areas. It would be very desirable in making this permissive section, as the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill has said, to safeguard in such a way that really the permission emanates from those interested vitally in the

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; the President.*]

welfare of the district, and with the sufferance of a considerable majority of the members of the District Board. I have proposed this additional safeguard that there should be a majority of two-thirds to authorize a grant for water-supply, and I think this would be considered as very reasonable. My hon'ble friend, Babu Gajadhar Prasad, has remarked that he has a long-standing connection with both the District Boards and the Municipality. I think my friend, like another individual in a more critical condition, created by the imagination of the poet, finds himself faced by a divided duty when he has got to consider the interests both of the District Board and the Municipality. It is not often that we hear of a District Board in affluent circumstances. I think we hear the contrary story very often. From the passage I have just read from the Administration Report, it will be quite clear that the Government has been year after year putting spur on the District Boards to spend considerably bigger amounts for water-supply in rural areas, and the Government regrets that more is not spent. Surely, the agency for the judicious use of money for the water-supply has been settled in this Bill by investing Union Committees with power to deal with sanitary conditions in their areas, and I hope there will be a larger demand when the Union Committees' work is properly defined, as it is hoped it will be under the new law. I think, Sir, what I have said will show that the safeguard I have proposed is eminently necessary to prevent an injudicious diversion of money from sanitary purposes within rural areas."

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"I beg to second the amendment just moved by my friend, the Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur. You have heard that the new section has been introduced in order to avoid all objections as to the legality of making provision for water-works. It is no good now referring to that matter again because it has been passed. The question now is, should we put some safeguard against the improper use of the District Board Funds for the purpose of the construction and maintenance of water-works? It is said that it is a permissive section. The money can only be spent by the District Boards themselves. I do not agree with my hon'ble friend, Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, that District Boards are not independent bodies and that the District Officers often exercise undue influence over them. On the contrary, I think District Magistrates would stand between them and the people of the district when occasion arises. But the mischief is not there, the mischief is that most of the members of District Boards reside in the district towns, and as we are all human beings we cannot forget our own individual convenience and safety, forgetting the convenience and health of the poor unfortunate population of the district who do not reside there. For the safety of the great agricultural population of this country, who are not represented on the District Boards, this safeguard is absolutely necessary. It is not right to say that because this is a permissive section no amendment is necessary. Everything would have been right if the great mass of the population were represented.

"It is the town population mostly that forms the District Boards. I have said that they are independent and they have shown this on occasions, but they are human beings. As regards the objections of my learned friend, the Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal, who said he wanted money for the Calcutta Municipality, I think it would have been better if he had not mentioned that.

"Your Honour, the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh and myself, who represent the District Boards, are in favour of this amendment. As regards the gentlemen who represent the Municipalities, I place the Hon'ble Babu Gajadhar Prasad in the category of a person who has the interest of the Municipalities more at heart than the interest of the District Boards he represents. He is very anxious, as we all know, to have the water-works at Bankipore; therefore his advice on this occasion cannot be called very disinterested."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT here intimated that the Government were prepared to accept the amendment.

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Oldham; the President; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE remarked:—"As the Government is going to accept the amendment, I need say no more."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"I wish to say, Sir, on behalf of Government, that I am prepared to accept this amendment, provided that the words 'total number of the' be inserted before the word 'members' in the last line of the proposed amendment."

The amendment was then put in the following form, namely:—

Provided that no application for such sanction shall be made unless it is authorized by a resolution which has been passed at a meeting specially convened for the purpose and in favour of which a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of the District Board have voted.

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT declared the motion carried.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, also moved—

(1) that in the second paragraph of sub-section (*1*) of section 118B, in clause 53 (*now* 55), of the Bill, the word "houses" be substituted for the word "property"; and

(2) that the following be added to sub-section (*1*) of the said section 118B, in clause 53 (*now* 55) of the Bill, namely:—

Explanation.—'Houses' include huts, shops, granaries and warehouses and buildings of all other kinds.

He said:—"The reason why I propose this change is that I understood the object and scope of these special provisions for special taxation to be that the tax should be limited only to the actual residents of the hamlet for whose sanitary improvement this money is to be spent. The present wording of the Bill unduly widens the basis for taxation, including amongst the assessees persons who are only remotely interested in the sanitary work to be done there. The first victim will be all the zamindars who have got lands within the Union and who will come under the operation of this Act. They already pay a tax for the improvement of the sanitation of the place, and there should not be a further impost levied from them in the guise of a special taxation. The members of the Union Committees will be mostly the agriculturists, and they would very much prefer that the zamindars are made to pay for sanitary works to be done in accordance with the special provision laid down in the Bill. The next class of people who will also suffer and who ought not to suffer on account of this Act will be those cultivators who live outside the limits of the Union; but who hold lands for cultivation. I think, Sir, this tax ought to be confined to persons who actually own or occupy houses within the limits where special sanitary works are to be done. This portion of the Bill professes to be modelled on the Village Chaukidari Act and the Chota Nagpur Rural Police Act, under which a tax is levied for the protection of the life and property of people residing in villages. Section 7 of the Chota Nagpur Rural Police Act says:—

All owners or occupiers of houses in any village, and every zamindar or under-tenure-holder who has a bhandar or cutchery for the collection of rent within the village shall be liable to assessment for the purposes of the Act.

"In the Village Chaukidari Act, section 14, says:—

All owners or occupiers of houses in any village, and any person who has within such village a cutchery for collecting rents, shall be liable to assessment for the purposes of this Act.

"I think, Sir, this provision of the Bill ought to run on the same lines and the assessment should be restricted to the owners or occupiers of houses which will, according to the definition hereafter given, include cutcheries of the zamindars."

[*Mr. Oldham; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari.*]

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"I cannot advise the Council to accept this amendment. There is no sound reason in my opinion why the assessment should be confined to owners or occupiers of houses within the Union. It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member has chiefly in mind the case of absentee landlords, and that he wishes that they should escape assessment if they have no house within the Union. I cannot accept this view; and I am supported in this by the opinion of others, several of whom are themselves landed proprietors. The new provisions in regard to Union Committees empower such Committees to take measures in respect of tanks, wells and water-courses as well as houses. If a Union Committee re-excavate, enlarge, deepen or otherwise improve a tank, or repair or deepen a well or water-course, benefit will accrue to the owner. It is obvious that the owner of such property should be liable to contribute towards the cost of such improvement, equally with persons who own or occupy houses within the Union. It is conceivable, on the other hand, that a person who merely owns some land within the limits of the Union may not benefit in any way from works carried out with the object of improving the sanitary conditions of a village It may be argued that such persons should not be liable to assessment. On the other hand, all persons assessed under the section have the right of appeal (under section 118C) to the District Board, if they consider they have been unjustly or improperly assessed; and if dissatisfied with the decision of the District Board in the matter, they can move the Divisional Commissioner to exercise his power of revision. Looking, however, to the fact that the new provisions are principally directed towards the sanitary improvement of villages, I would be prepared to accept the following proposal:—

> That in section 118B (*1*), in clause 53 (*now* 55) of the Bill, for the words 'the owners or occupiers of property' the following be substituted, *viz.*, 'the owners of buildings, tanks, wells or water-courses, or the occupiers of buildings.'

"The term 'building' is preferable to 'house' for obvious reasons."

There being no opposition, the Hon'ble the President declared the amended motion carried.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, by leave of the Council, withdrew the following motions, of which he had given notice, namely:—

(1) that after proviso (*1*) to section 86A, in clause 41 (*now* 43) of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely:—

> (*2*) Provided always that when, owing to the construction of a bridge, there is any loss to the owner of a private ferry, such loss will be compensated out of the proceeds of the toll-bar, or out of the funds of the District Board when no tolls are levied.

(2) that in line 9 of section 118B, in clause 53 (*now* 55) of the Bill, the word "houses" be substituted for the word "property."

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI also moved that in proviso (*c*) to sub-section (*2*) of section 118B, in clause 53 (*now* 55) of the Bill, for the word "seven" the word "four" be substituted.

This amendment being opposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham, the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari moved that the word "five" be substituted for the word "seven" in the same proviso.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM having accepted this amendment, the Hon'ble the President declared it carried.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI also moved that after clause 29A (*now* 32) of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely:—

> 29B. After section 60 of the said Act the following shall be inserted, namely:—
>
> '60A. A District Board may form, as occasion may require, permanent or temporary committees in a village or group of villages for carrying out general or specific works of sanitation, such as the digging of wells and tanks, the cutting of jungles and the draining of marshy places, &c.'

[*Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari ; Babu Gajadhar Prasad ; Mr. Oldham.*]

He said:—"This, Sir, is purely a permissive section, and ought not to meet with any opposition. The reason why I have thought it necessary to make a permissive provision like this is this: It is conceivable that works outside the scope of individual Unions and which would take up more of the District Board's time than it would care to bestow on them would be neglected. The Unions will no doubt do good work, but their number is not very large; and even if their number be considerably enlarged, their constitution will be more or less formal and confined to their own units. The Unions will not be able to take up work not strictly within their jurisdiction. I, therefore, propose that District Boards—if it is found necessary to do so—should have power to appoint Committees able to take up work outside the purview of Village Unions. These Committees, if appointed, will be able to give time and energy for the proper carrying out of works which the Board would not be able to attend to.

"It is really not a new thing. My hon'ble friend, Babu Jogendra Nath Mookerjee, who served previously on the Council, raised this question and pointed out that it was desirable to have organisations like those which I suggest to carry on special work. The Village Unions themselves are not able to do it, and the District Boards themselves are not able to attend to it. Under these circumstances it seems to me that it is desirable to have some organizations of the kind suggested, and if the proposal is accepted, an agency may be provided which will be able to do good work."

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said:—"I second the amendment, and my experience as Chairman of a District Board is that in villages the digging of wells and tanks are generally entrusted to people of a village and a headman, but of course they are not recognized as a Sub-Committee. They do the work and it is afterwards passed. I think we should be better provided for in the Act."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM said:—"It is for such purposes as those mentioned by the Hon'ble Member that Union Committees may be appointed under the Act; and it is more especially to enable the Union Committees better to carry out such measures that the new provisions extending their powers and responsibilities have been inserted in the present Bill. On the other hand, it might lead to serious difficulty if two authorities were established with concurrent jurisdiction in the same area. The existing provisions in the Bill appear to me to fully provide for the case. If such work did not come within the scope of a Union Committee, the District Board have themselves sufficient power under the law as it stands. I think this amendment should, therefore, be rejected."

The motion was then put and lost.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM moved that for clause 19 (*now* 21) of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:—

> 19. In the proviso to section 36 of the said Act, for the words 'the Local Board to which the Union Committee creating such appointment is subordinate,' the words 'the District Board' shall be substituted.

He said:—"This amendment is necessitated by the terms of section 119, sub-section (*1*), which provides that the District Board may, with the sanction of the Commissioner, direct that any specified Union Committee shall act as the agent of, and shall be subject to the control of, a Local Board, instead of the District Board, either for all purposes or for the purposes specified in the order; and sub-section (*3*) enacts that so long as an order made under sub-section (*1*) with respect to any Local Board continues in force, the reference to the District Board in the foregoing sections of the Act shall, so far as may be necessary, be read as if made to such Local Board."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that for clause 21 (*now* 23) of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely :—

> **21.** In section 44 of the said Act, for the words 'the Local Board to which it is subordinate as hereinafter provided,' and for the words 'the Local Board,' the words 'the District Board' shall be substituted.

He said :—"This amendment similarly is consequential upon section 119."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that for clause 28 (*now* 30) of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely :—

> 28. In section 58 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885, for the words 'the Local Board to which such Union Committee is subordinate,' the words 'the District Board' shall be substituted.

He said :—"The same explanation applies here."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that in clause 42 (*now* 44) of the Bill, for the words "the construction, repair and maintenance, under the provisions of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884, of water-works, wells or tanks within the district," the following be substituted, namely :—

> (*a*) the construction, repair and maintenance, under the provisions of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884, of water-works, wells or tanks within the district; or
>
> (*b*) taking measures under the said Act for the prevention of plague in the district.

He said :—"Clause 42 (*now* 44) of the Bill, as already explained, empowers District Boards, with the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor, to contribute towards the cost of the construction, repair and maintenance, under the provisions of the Bengal Municipal Act, of water-works, wells or tanks within the district. Such contributions have been made in the past, and it has been decided to specifically provide for them. There is another kind of contribution which has also been made in the past, and for which it is doubtful whether the Act provides at present. Since the advent of plague to this Province, Municipal authorities have in many cases exhausted their resources in taking measures against this scourge; and District Boards have, in several instances, come to their help. A question has recently been raised as to whether the Act authorizes such contributions. Plague usually breaks out first in the larger municipalities, and spreads thence into the farther parts of the district. It is manifestly in the interests of the district as a whole that prompt measures should be taken to prevent or to stamp out, when they occur, such outbreaks; and it is only right, therefore, that District Boards should have power to assist in case of emergency in such measures. It has been thought advisable to take the present opportunity of making this clear."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that after sub-section (*1*) of section 91, in clause 42A (*now* 45) of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely :—

> (*1a*) The Civil Surgeon of the district shall be a member *ex-officio* of the Sanitation Committee of his district.

He said:—"Section 91 enacts that every District Board shall appoint, to be members of Sanitation Committees, not more than five nor less than three members of the Board. It is very important that the Civil Surgeon of the district should always be a member of this Committee, and it has been thought necessary to provide definitely for this in the Act."

The motion was put and agreed to.

[*Mr. Oldham ; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that after sub-section (*1*) of section 118B, in clause 53 (*now* 55) of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely:—

(*1a*) The Union Committee shall appoint one of their number to receive and collect the said assessment, and to grant receipts for the same, and to keep the accounts thereof; and may permit the person so appointed to retain any sum, not exceeding five *per cent.* of the amount collected by him, to repay the costs of such collection.

He said:—"Section 22 of the Village Chaukidari Act, 1870, provides that every panchayat shall appoint one of their number to receive and collect the rate, and to keep the accounts thereof. There is no similar provision, however, in the Chota Nagpur Rural Police Act. As section 118B will apply to districts in which the Chota Nagpur Rural Police Act is in force, as well as to districts in which the Village Chaukidari Act is in force, it has been decided to insert a general provision of the nature indicated in this amendment."

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, by way of amendment, proposed that the words "or any other person" be inserted after the words "one of their number" in the above amendment.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM having accepted this, the motion was put in the amended form and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that in sub-section (*2*) of section 118B, in clause 53 (*now* 55) of the Bill, for the figures "15 to 20, 22, 25 to 34, 47 and 63," the figures "15 to 19, 25 to 29, 31 to 34, 46A, 46B and 63" be substituted.

He said:—"A careful scrutiny of the two Acts in question has disclosed the necessity of slight alteration in the section in respect of the sections of the Village Chaukidari Act, 1870, to be applied."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that in the same sub-section, for the figures "8 to 11, 13, 15 to 21, 34 and 36," the figures "9, 10, 13, 15 to 18, 20, 21, 34 and 36" be substituted.

He said:—"The same remarks apply in this case".

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that after proviso (*a*) to section 118B (*2*), in clause 53 (*now* 55) of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely:—

(*aa*) the references in section 46B of the said Village Chaukidari Act, 1870, to the chaukidari assessment shall be construed as references to the assessment imposed under this section.

He said:—"This is a consequential amendment".

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that proviso (*e*) to sub-section (*2*) of section 118B, in clause 53 (*now* 55) of the Bill, be omitted.

He said:—"This is also a consequential amendment".

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that in sub-clause (*qq*), in clause 59 (*now* 60) of the Bill, for the figures "118A," the figures "118B" be substituted.

He said:—"It will be clear to the Hon'ble Members that section 118B should also be included under sub-section (*qq*) of section 138".

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that clause 36 of the Bill be omitted.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also, with the permission of the President, moved that to clause 26 (*3*) (*now* 27 (*4*), of the Bill, the following be added, namely:—

and

(*d*) of the expenses of any of the poorer inhabitants of the district for journeys to and from any hospital established in any part of British India for the treatment of special diseases.

He said:—"Clause 36 of the Bill empowers a District Board, with the approval of the Commissioner, to defray the expenses of poorer inhabitants of the district for journeys to and from any hospital established in any part of British India for the treatment of special diseases. This clause was inserted chiefly with the object of extending to servants of District Boards and poor inhabitants of the district the concessions granted by the Government of India as to the treatment of Government servants at the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli. It has been pointed out, however, that the effect of the clause as it stands would be that the power given by it would have to be exercised by the members of the District Board in meeting, and the approval of the Commissioner then obtained. Obviously this procedure might involve delay of perhaps a month. In the case of a person bitten by an animal suffering from rabies, immediate action for his despatch to Kasauli should be taken. It is advisable, therefore, that a quicker procedure should be provided. This object will be attained by inserting the provision about the payment of such expenses in clause 26 (*3*) (*now* 27 (*4*), of the Bill, that is, under section 53 of the Act."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also, with the permission of the President, moved that in sub-clause (*iii*) of section 118C, in clause 53 (*now* 55) of the Bill, for the word "holding" the word "property" be substituted.

He said:—"As Hon'ble Members will observe, this is merely a question of drafting."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also, with the permission of the President moved that in sub-clause (*o1*), in clause 59 (*9*) *now* 60 (*10*), of the Bill, for the words "famine-relief," the words "the relief of famine, serious distress or scarcity" be substituted.

He said:—"This amendment is necessitated by the amendment made in section 99 and the terms of the new section 99 (*a*)."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that clause 5A (*now* 6) of the Bill be numbered 6, and that all necessary changes be made in the numbering of the remaining clauses and sub-clauses.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM then moved that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"It gives me great pleasure to find that this great and beneficent measure, inaugurated by Your Honour, is going to be made law to-day. The diversion of the road-cess to purposes other than those for which it was originally imposed was a standing grievance of the people. It remained for you to remedy it and the people ought to be grateful to you for it. I need not take up the time of the Council by recapitulating the history of the road-cess and the difficulties of the District Boards and by showing the magnitude of the service rendered by Your Honour. It is known to all and appreciated even by the papers which see nothing good in British rule. Your Honour has also earned the gratitude of the people

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

by listening to the objection raised in my note of dissent to the first Report of the Select Committee, embodying the opinion of many of the non-official Members and expunging the provision about the imposition of the railway cess. Now I have to speak of a matter of supreme importance to the people under your charge, namely, the new provision about making sanitary improvements in the rural areas. The growing unhealthiness of the districts of Bengal is just now the greatest danger to the people and a matter deserving of the most serious consideration at the hands of the Government.

"Whatever might be said against the Government and its Officers, it would be very ungrateful indeed not to acknowledge what has been done by them for the education of the people, medical help to them and the prevention of epidemics and the improvement of sanitation in this country—matters to which all past Governments were all but indifferent and impotent on account of ignorance and prejudice. Indeed, our ideas of the education of the masses, and the necessity of adopting measures according to sanitary science, and the like, are the outcome of European science and European democratic ideas. British officials may be haughty, and I for one would like to keep aloof from them whenever possible; but I know that there is not one among them who does not feel that he is here for the amelioration of the condition of the people under his charge. The defects of the British Rule are many, but to say that it has been the cause of famines, plagues and malaria would not be correct and be rather ungrateful, and the person who, knowing it, does not say so, helps in the propagation of untruth.

"Your Honour has once again vindicated the character of the British Governor for his earnest solicitude for the welfare of the people under his charge, by the introduction of the new provisions about sanitation. Your Honour has supplied self-governing bodies with limited powers of taxation for carrying out sanitary improvements. I am thankful to the Select Committee for accepting the safeguards against improper taxation, which I thought would take away all objections to it.

"The Select Committee have provided that the rates can be imposed by the people's representations when two-thirds of them agree to it; then again a moderate limit has been placed on the power of taxation. But I cannot but give expression to my apprehension that the means at the command of the District Boards and Union Committees would be quite insufficient to meet the necessities of the case. The ear-marking of the road-cess will also handicap the District Boards in many matters and probably in the matter of education. Indeed, though much has been done, very much more ought to be done, and people who have received Western education are greatly dissatisfied because they find that, as compared with other civilized countries, so little is done in this country, and they hold the Government responsible for the general ignorance and comparative poverty of the people and also for the many thousands of preventable deaths. It is, however, easy to criticize, but very difficult to do. However, the passing of the present measure is not enough, unless the Government will rise to the occasion and find money for very much larger grants for education and sanitation. My only regret on the present occasion is that Your Honour has been unable to raise the proportion of the elected Members of District Boards as you intended to do. But I believe that a larger measure of self-government will soon be granted, and we need not be impatient. In conclusion, I must say that I would be failing in my duty as a representative of the District Boards if I do not give expression to my gratitude to Your Honour for this great measure of far-reaching beneficence."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned to Saturday, the 5th September, 1908.

CALCUTTA;
The 12th September, 1908.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

B. S. Press—16-9-1908—2381J—300—J. A. M. & others.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 5th September, 1908, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. R. T. GREER, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. F. W. DUKE.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, KT.

The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN.

The Hon'ble MR. W. H. H. VINCENT.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAIS-UD-DOWLA AMIR-UL-OMRAH NAWAB ASEF KUDR SYUD WASIF ALI MEERZA KHAN BAHADUR MAHABUT JUNG, Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA BIJAT CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR, OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

The Hon'ble MR. W. BROWN.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

[*Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Streatfeild.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STATE TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL said:—

In the Gazette of India of the 23rd January, 1904, in paragraph 6 of the Despatch No. 8, dated Simla, the 9th October, 1902, from the Government of India, Home Department, to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, it is stated that "the Local Governments and Administrations will be required to bear in mind the importance of ensuring that the returned scholar shall find scope for his skill and ability * * * * * * If the early results of the scheme are successful, we think that the services of the returned scholars are sure to be in good demand, and that, failing private employment, Government will be glad to turn their abilities to account as teachers in industrial schools or in other capacities connected with the improvement of local industries."

Will the Government be pleased to state whether any of the returned scholars have been taken into the Government service?

In paragraph 3 of the same Despatch it is stated that "they proposed to give two (scholarships) to the Madras Presidency, two to the Bombay Presidency, two to Bengal, and to distribute the remaining four among the other provinces."

Subsequently, in paragraph 2 of the Government Notification published in the Statesman of the 20th March, 1908, it is stated that the Government of India have now decided to award during the year 1908 and the following years one scholarship annually to each province, * * * .

Will the Government be pleased to state the cause of reduction in the number of scholarships from two to one?

It is stated in the Government Notification (published in the Statesman of the 20th March, 1908) that "as far as Bengal was concerned, it was decided that the mining industry offered the most * * * * * favourable field, * * * * * and the scholarships hitherto awarded on the recommendation of the Government of Bengal have been utilized for the encouragement of that industry. Eleven State Technical scholars have been sent from Bengal in the four years 1904 to 1907."

Will the Government be pleased to state how many of the said scholars have returned after completing their period of scholarships, with what qualifications, and how they have been employed?

Since the institution of the said scholarships, rules under section 20 of the Indian Mines Act, 1901 (VIII of 1901), fixing qualifications for Mine Managers, were published in the Gazette of India, dated 21st April, 1906, and came into operation from 21st October, 1906.

Will the Government be pleased to state whether such rules have facilitated the employment of the scholars in any way; if so, what steps have been taken to ensure the success of the scheme and to turn the ability of the returned scholars into practical utility?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"Since 1904 ten scholars have gone to England, where seven are still pursuing their studies. One scholar threw up his work with the object of being called to the Bar. Two scholars have obtained the degree of B. Sc. in Mining. One has not yet reported his arrival in India to Government. The second returned to India last November and has lately applied to Government for employment. This is therefore the only case coming under Part I of the Hon'ble Member's question.

[*Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

"The Government has been informed that this last gentleman failed to pass the recent examination held by the Mining Board under the rules made by the Government of India under section 20 of the Indian Mines Act, VIII of 1901. This result is surprisingly unsatisfactory and careful inquiry will be made into all the facts of the case. The Government is anxious to give all possible help to deserving scholars on their return to India, but it certainly does not propose to provide employment in all cases irrespective of merit. It is moreover eminently desirable that the services of returned scholars should be utilized as far as possible in private employment.

"There is no reason to doubt the value of the examination prescribed by the rules framed under section 20 of the Indian Mines Act. The object of this examination is not to facilitate the employment of scholars, but to prevent the employment as Mine Managers of persons who are not reasonably qualified for such employment. The examination is understood to be such as any mining scholar should pass without difficulty.

"Formerly two scholarships were awarded to each of the Governments of Madras, Bombay and Bengal, the remaining four being distributed among other Local Governments. The Government of India considered that this arrangement was unfair, as it did not give every province an opportunity of nominating a scholar every year. The ten scholarships have therefore been re-distributed, and one scholarship has been made available annually for each province. There has been no reduction in the total number of scholarships. It has been decided that this re-distribution shall not prevent any Local Government from receiving more than one scholarship in any year if there is a dearth of eligible candidates in other provinces. Two scholars from this province have been accepted this year by the Government of India. One is to undergo a course of training in mining and the other in leather industries."

TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MINING.

The Hon'ble Babu Radha Charan Pal asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is under contemplation in any Department of Government, or it has been recommended, to abolish the present system of Technical scholarships for Mining study on the ground that a course of Mining training has recently been introduced in the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur; whether the course of education in Mining training in the Sibpur College includes practical training in any up-to-date collieries; and whether the Sibpur College Laboratory has been well equipped with up-to-date Mining Machinery, Experimental Mine, etc., Electrical Machinery, Metallurgical Laboratory with furnaces and Geological Laboratory necessary for Mining study similar to what are provided for in the University of Birmingham, where such Technical scholars are usually sent?

The Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild replied:—

"This Government is not aware of any proposal to abolish the present system of Technical Scholarships for mining. The Sibpur course includes a period of practical surveying in a mining district with actual underground work. The College has been well equipped, as far as is practicable and as far as funds permit; but it cannot pretend to an equipment equal to that of the Birmingham University."

OVERFLOW OF THE RIVER BODAI.

The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose asked:—

"Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the condition of the ancient and populous of villages Hadal, Narayanpore and others situated

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Inglis; Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Mr. Duke.*]

within thana Vishnupore in the district of Bankura, which are every year under water on account of the overflow of the waters of the River Bodai and have become all but deserted in consequence? Will the Government be pleased to inquire and to take steps to remedy this state of things?

The Hon'ble Mr. INGLIS replied:—

"The attention of Government has not been drawn to this matter, and there is no present information in respect to it. An inquiry will be made."

BABU DURGA CHARAN SANYAL'S CASE.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the observations of the Indian Daily News, the Empire, the Capital, and all the Indian papers of Bengal regarding the conviction and sentence of Babu Durga Charan Sanyal? Does the Government intend to take any steps in the matter?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the observations in the judgment of the High Court in the above case describing the pitiable condition of the accused, an old pleader of over 60 years, who has lost many children and whose bereavements and disappointments in life have told seriously on his health and mind? Will the Government be pleased to remit his sentence on the above considerations?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether the said old prisoner should not be treated with kindness and not required to undergo hard labour as long as his matter is under consideration and also as long as he is in jail?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The prisoner in question is being carefully observed, and his case is receiving due attention. As the offence for which he has been convicted was committed within the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, this Government is not in a position to deal finally with the matter except in consultation with the Government of that province. It is impossible to express any opinion on this case at present."

SCARCITY IN BIHAR.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked:—

Is the Government aware that on account of drought, *bhadoi* crops in Bihar are almost destroyed and the prospects of paddy there are quite gloomy? If so, will it please the Government to take the necessary measures for the relief of the people of Bihar?

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE replied:—

"Government is aware that owing to failure of the rains the crop prospects are very gloomy in certain districts of Bihar. It is hoped that the situation has been improved in the south and west by recent heavy rain. The local officers have already been addressed with a view to action being taken as soon as it may become necessary. They have applied for *takavi* loans to be distributed as soon as rain makes the cultivation of the *rabi* crop possible, and these have been arranged for."

[*Mr. Vincent; Mr. Oldham.*]

THE CHOTA NAGPUR TENANCY BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend and consolidate certain enactments relating to the law of Landlord and Tenant and the settlement of rents in Chota Nagpur.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT also moved that the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration by the Council on the 19th instant.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE BENGAL REPEALING BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM moved for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Howrah and Suburban Municipal Police Act, 1884. He said:—

"The Howrah Municipality has been relieved by the Government of India of all liabilities formerly imposed on it on account of police charges, and the Suburban Municipality was abolished in the year 1888. It is unnecessary therefore to retain the Howrah and Suburban Municipal Police Act, 1884 (Bengal Act IV of 1884), on the Statute Book, and it is accordingly proposed to repeal it."

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also introduced the Bill, and moved that it be read in Council.

The motion was put and agreed to, and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that the Bill be taken into consideration by the Council on the 19th instant.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned to Saturday, the 19th September, 1908.

CALCUTTA;
The 15th September, 1908.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

B. S. Press—20-1-1909—4127J—60—W. M. D'C.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

The Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 19th September, 1908, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. R. T. GREER, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. S. P. SINHA, Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble Mr. F. W. DUKE.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. H. C. STREATFEILD.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, KT.

The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN.

The Hon'ble MR. W. H. H. VINCENT.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAIS-UD-DOWLA AMIR-UL-OMRAH NAWAB ASEF KUDR SYUD WASIF ALI MEERZA KHAN BAHADUR MAHABUT JUNG, Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR, OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

The Hon'ble MR. W. BROWN.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SIBPUR COLLEGE.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to say what steps have been taken to give effect to its promise to establish classes in mining engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering, imparting instruction to a standard equal to that of the technical colleges of Europe? Have the classes in the Sibpur College on the above subjects been affiliated with the Calcutta University for the purpose of granting degrees in them? When will the said graduate classes be opened?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"I refer the Hon'ble Member to what I said on this subject in the course of the last budget debate, which was as follows:—'The Hon'ble Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose has made a serious grievance of the delay in opening the graduate classes in Engineering at Sibpur. I find, however, that the University is not prepared to examine for these degrees till 1911, and as a two years' course is involved, it is useless and impracticable to start these classes till 1909. The first intermediate examination in Engineering will be held in 1909. This course was opened in 1907, and those who are now reading the course and who succeed in passing the examination in 1909 will be eligible to read the graduate course then and not before.' That statement was and is correct."

INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to say in what stage is the scheme for starting graduate classes in industrial chemistry?

The Hon'ble Mr. STREATFEILD replied:—

"The scheme for establishing classes in technological chemistry and the chemistry of dyeing at Sibpur is still under the consideration of the Government of India."

WEAVING SCHOOL AT SERAMPORE.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to say whether there is any likelihood of opening the Weaving School at Serampore in the near future? Is the Government in a position to say by what time at the latest the school will be started?

The Hon'ble MR STREATFEILD replied.—

"The appointment of a Principal for the Serampore Weaving School has been made. The gentleman selected is at present employed by a private firm in Bombay. It is hoped that he will join the appointment at once and that the school will be started within two months from the present date."

SILK INDUSTRY.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to say whether all the recommendations of the Silk Commission have been given effect to, and what steps are being taken for imparting instruction in improved methods of sericulture?

[*Mr. Duke ; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE replied :—

"The remedial measures recommended by the Silk Committee appointed in June, 1906, were accepted by Government, except on two points. Conferences were held at Calcutta and Berhampur with the leading representatives of the Silk Industry and it was ultimately agreed that the control of the operations and the disbursement of the funds should rest with a Committee consisting of three representatives of European Silk Firms, one representative of the Indian Silk Firms, the Collector of Murshidabad and the Director of Agriculture (President). It was further decided that one large central nursery in addition to the small nurseries should be maintained. The Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam preferred to have a separate Superintendent of Sericulture, so that the operations are confined to this Province. The management of the Sericultural School at Rajshahi and the two nurseries there have been handed over; but the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam have agreed to train six students from this Province every year.

"The members of the Committee were recently nominated and rules for their guidance published. Meanwhile, Rs. 22,000 had been provided in the budget and Babu Apurba Coomar Ghose has been appointed Sericultural Superintendent. Under his guidance, about 60 bighas of land have been planted with mulberry and the construction of the central nursery and four small nurseries at Berhampore has been undertaken. Other model rearing houses will be established as soon as the organization is complete and funds permit.

"Instruction in improved methods of Sericulture is given at Rajshahi and at Sabang in the district of Midnapore. As soon as it is possible to open more model rearing houses facilities for imparting instruction will be extended."

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of establishing comparatively inexpensive lower grade agricultural schools for training practical agriculturists, in which a high literary qualification for admission will not be required, as in the Central Provinces, one in each division or one in connection with each of the existing demonstration farms?

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE replied :—

"Until the Provincial Agricultural College at Sabaur can supply elementary teachers it does not seem advisable for the Government to start lower grade agricultural schools; but a class for the practical training of some of the cultivators, such as is in existence at Cuttack, will be opened at each of the Experiment Stations. For the Cuttack class no literary qualification is necessary beyond ability to read and write the vernacular."

DRINKING-WATER IN RURAL AREAS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Having regard to the answer given by the Government to a question on the subject which showed the extreme inadequacy of the amount spent in the districts of the Presidency Division during the last five years for the supply of good drinking-water, and having regard also to the great water scarcity experienced during the hot season this year, will the Government be pleased to make a systematic effort by taking measures for the excavation of 20 or a sufficient number of good tanks every year in the interior of each of the districts of the said Division, through the District Boards, by making special grants for the purpose?

[*Mr. Oldham; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"In the answers given to Questions Nos. V and VI put by the Hon'ble Member at the meeting of this Council held on the 21st March last, the policy of this Government in respect of making grants for the supply of drinking water in rural areas was explained. No change has since been made in that policy. Under the extended powers given to them by the provisions of the Bill for the amendment of the Local Self-Government Act recently passed in this Council, Union Committees will be enabled to undertake measures of the nature referred to by the Hon'ble Member. Government will look to the people in the first instance to take action of their own accord when necessary under these provisions. It will be left to District Boards and Union Committees to initiate measures in the direction suggested. It is only thus that the Act recently passed will be justified."

VILLAGE SANITATION.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Having regard to the fact that the new provisions about sanitation by means of Union Committees will be infructuous on account of the very insufficient funds that can be raised by the said Committees, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of making an adequate grant for sanitary purposes to the said Committees?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"The provisions recently added in the Bill to amend the Local Self-Government Act have not yet come into operation. It is, therefore, premature to discuss whether the funds that it will be possible for the Union Committees to raise under those provisions will be insufficient for the purpose of measures of village sanitation."

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES IN THE PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the grants made by it and the amounts spent by the District Boards in each of the districts of the Presidency Division for affording medical help to the people living outside the district and sub-divisional towns? Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of establishing a larger number of charitable dispensaries than that which exists at present in the said districts?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"A statement has been prepared (marked A) showing the grants made by Government and the total expenditure in the case of each dispensary in the Presidency Division outside the district and sub-divisional towns during each of the last three years. Government has not got information to show what grants are made by each District Board to each dispensary and what amounts are received from other sources.

"From another statement (marked B), it will be seen that the Presidency Division is already much better off in respect of dispensaries than any of the other Divisions. It may be left to the local authorities to move for the establishment of other dispensaries as local conditions may demand."

A.

District.	Name of Dispensary.	Class.	Government Contribution.			Total Expenditure.		
			1905.	1906.	1907.	1905.	1906.	1907.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
24-Parganas ...	Barisha	III	10	14	14	1,865	1,664	1,662
	Khardaha ...	,,	13	...	...	641	506	766
	Nawabganj ...	,,	...	...	6	583	660	878
	Naihati	,,	6	7	7	836	942	1,090
	Halishahar ...	,,	5	...	5	600	982	819
	Harinavi ...	,,	333	321	201	1,544	2,172	1,361
	Baruipur ...	,,	1	1	1	1,375	1,693	1,406
	Birati	,,	12	12	12	831	881	837
	Garulia	,,	7	407	7	1,028	1,021	1,054
	Chitpur	,,	16	4	4	2,931	2,503	2,507
	Baduria	,,	163	154	154	1,170	1,457	1,391
	Budge-Budge ...	,,	22	1,000	16	2,302	1,487	1,423
	South Dum-Dum ...	,,	16	13	13	1,162	1,146	1,160
	Manicktala ...	,,	...	...	...	1,892	1,532	1,920
	Ultadanga ...	,,	...	...	...	173	26	226
	Jainagar ...	,,	100	100	...	861	1,062	904
	Garden Reach ...	,,	...	...	24	1,282	1,266	1,264
	Canning Town ...	,,	120	122	122	767	907	940
	Taki	,,	10	10	13	1,167	2,137	1,278
	Tantoolia ...	,,	435	639	563	1,741	1,435	2,245
	Magra Hát ...	,,	1	61	7	1,046	1,075	1,418
	Belpukur ...	,,	15	28	298	1,073	1,336	1,430
	Cossipore ...	IV	12,197	209	1,173	7,711	13,711	23,444
	Chetla ...	,,	339	334	50	1,824	1,808	2,228
Nadia ...	Ula	III	19	15	13	795	1,193	691
	Santipur ...	,,	46	25	239	1,535	1,509	2,429
	Kumarkhali ...	,,	16	...	12	587	803	506
	Chakdaha ...	,,	23	217	15	1,149	705	1,149
	Navadwip ...	,,	...	22	135	1,573	1,555	1,323
	Dubagram ...	,,	15	14	16	557	803	979
	Shikarpore ...	,,	19	16	29	709	584	889
Murshidabad ...	Azimganj ...	,,	613	266	23	3,813	2,961	4,228

District.	Name of Dispensary.	Class.	Government Contribution.			Total Expenditure.		
			1905.	1906.	1907.	1905.	1906.	1907.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jessore ...	Kotchandpur ...	III	167	190	257	1,632	1,658	1,981
	Maheshpur ...	,,	12	27	19	797	745	783
	Sreedharpur ...	,,	11	22	29	743	820	755
	Kessubpur ...	,,	9	24	24	958	918	1,297
	Nohatta ...	IV	8	227	20	589	1,178	660
	Raigram ...	,,	11	27	20	667	675	639
	Lohagara ...	,,	14	46	41	1,160	1,029	970
	Kalia ...	,,	...	20	20	...	555	630
	Sripur ...	,,	...	...	20	...	...	659
Khulna ...	Kalaroa	III	10	9	10	833	1,308	973
	Tala	,,	17	15	14	852	1,026	1,227
	Kaliganj ...	,,	13	12	11	523	982	1,458
	Mollahat ...	,,	18	11	10	717	797	1,153
	Chandkhali ...	,,	80	130	130	1,479	1,058	930
	Nawapara ...	,,	14	13	14	731	1,497	1,227
	Dumuria ...	,,	14	13	14	872	1,110	1,051
	Rampal	,,	...	7	9	...	2,488	855
	Shibbati ...	,,	...	8	10	...	2,350	1,221
	Dacope	,,	...	8	8	...	2,496	832
	Paikgacha ...	,,	...	...	8	...	...	1,960
	Debhatta ...	,,	...	...	9	...	...	1,787
	Senhati	,,	...	...	8	...	...	2,061
	Char Baniari ...	,,	...	...	3	...	...	1,361
	Daulatpur ...	IV	17	435	746	1,108	1,105	1,361

B.

Name of Division.	Total population.	Total area in square miles.	Total number of dispensaries.	Number of population to each dispensary (column 2 divided by column 4).	Number of square miles to each dispensary.	Number of dispensaries outside district and subdivisional headquarters.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Burdwan	8,240,076	13,949	56	147,144	249	39
Presidency (including Calcutta).	8,993,028	14,964	94	95,670	159	56
Patna	16,516,389	38,713	75	206,872	516	49
Bhagalpur ...	8,091,405	19,776	55	147,116	359	35
Orissa	4,788,119	11,194	37	129,409	300	21
Chota Nagpur ...	4,900,429	26,963	26	188,478	1,037	16

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Oldham; Mr. Streatfeild.*]

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES IN THE SUNDARBANS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of establishing a few charitable dispensaries and of also appointing a few travelling Doctors during the cholera season in the Sundarbans, where there is practically little or no medical aid available?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"To provide adequate medical relief in the Sundarbans tracts of the Khulna and 24 Parganas districts is an extremely difficult task, on account of the large area and the scattered population. The District Boards of Khulna and the 24-Parganas are alive to their responsibilities in the matter; and they have from time to time made special arrangements for dealing with cholera outbreaks. The former Board maintains four dispensaries in the south of the settled area; and the latter, three. The 24-Parganas District Board also maintains a floating dispensary in the Sundarbans tract, and proposes to establish another permanent dispensary on the edge of this tract.

"It seems to the Lieutenant-Governor desirable that another floating dispensary should be established for the Sundarbans tracts of the Khulna district; and Government will be prepared to make a contribution towards the cost thereof. The Commissioner of the Division is being addressed on the subject."

EXPENDITURE ON PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the actual amount now spent by it annually on primary schools, without including in it the charges for inspection and direction, in each of the districts of the Presidency Division, and also the population of the said districts?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"A statement giving the information asked for by the Hon'ble Member is laid on the table."

howing the amount spent from different Public funds during the last three years on Primary schools in each of the s of the Presidency Division (excluding charges for Inspection and Direction), and also the population of the stricts.

s of icts.	Population.	Amount spent in 1905-06 from—				Amount spent in 1906-07 from—				Amount spent in 1907-08 from—				Average amount spent in each of the last 3 years.			
		Provincial Revenues.	District Funds.	Municipal Funds	Total.	Provincial Revenues.	District Funds.	Municipal Funds.	Total.	Provincial Revenues	District Funds.	Municipal Funds.	Total.	Provincial Revenues.	District Funds.	Municipal Funds.	Total.
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
... ...	847,796	25,732	...	8,759	34,491	26,552	...	10,752	37,304	26,452	..	12,070	38,522	26,378	...	10,527	36,905
...	2,078,340	29,810	33,149	10,177	73,136	28,535	36,358	10,703	70,596	25,145	32,178	10,669	68,018	26,197	33,895	10,583	70,67 .
... ...	1,667,491	6,033	23,590	3,153	32,776	6,190	25,268	3,300	34,758	7,134	26,754	3,489	37,378	6,452	25,204	3,314	33,970
... ...	1,333,184	3,901	17,105	2,073	23,079	4,761	17,269	2,182	24,754	3,892	18,462	2,057	24,411	4,852	17,792	2,104	24,748
... ...	1,813,274	4,771	27,239	628	32,638	5 877	27,063	677	33,617	6,373	24,961	617	33,951	5,674	27,088	641	33,468
... ...	1,383,043	7,199	24,665	1,184	32,939	7,593	25,562	1,097	34,342	6,734	25,185	754	32,593	7,149	24,661	1,098	32,908

n some years the District Boards did not spend the whole of the amounts allotted to them. In some years the Boards spent more than the amounts so plus being provided from their own funds.
ants allotted by Government to the Boards were as follows:—

	1905-06	1906-07.	1907-08.
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
District Boards—			
24-Parganas	33,8?? – 443	35,592 + 2,764	35,892 – 1,414
Nadia	22,7.2 + 9?2	22,798 + 3,1 6	22,612 + 3,243
Murshidabad	19,064 – 1,959	19,064 – 1,255	19,064 – 882
Jessore	28,064 – 823	28,064 – 1,801	8,064 – 1,105
Khulna	20,799 + 8,856	20,799 + 4,743	29,799 + 2,206

amounts show what was spent by the Boards from their own funds over and above the Government grant; the minus amounts show by how much the spend the full Government grant.
ll these Boards together, the amounts spent over and above the Government grants were Rs. [illegible] in 1906-07, Rs. [illegible] in 1906-07, and Rs. 1,139 in 1907-08.

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Streatfeild; Mr. Oldham.*]

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to say whether it has any scheme before it for the extension of primary education, and whether it intends to materially increase the number of primary schools in these provinces in the near future?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"As the Hon'ble Member is aware, the question of the abolition of fees in Primary Schools has recently been considered by all Local Governments. This question is now awaiting the decision of the Government of India; and it is clear that on that decision future action with regard to primary education must depend. Meanwhile, no definite schemes for increasing the number of Primary Schools in this Province is under the consideration of Government."

MANUFACTURE OF SALT IN BENGAL.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of recommending the Government of India to allow one or two Companies, which are intended to be established by a Special Committee of the Association for the advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians, consisting of Raja Peary Mohan Mukerji and a few other gentlemen interested in the subject, to make once again the experiment of manufacturing salt in these Provinces without duty for three years, and also whether it is possible for it to afford any other help for the purpose of furthering the said object?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"The views of Government as to the manufacture of salt have been already communicated to the Hon'ble Member in the answers given to questions put by him in this Council at the meetings held on the 2nd February, 1907, and the 4th April, 1908.

"Any proposals which the Special Committee referred to may desire to make had better be submitted, in an explicit and detailed manner, by the Committee for the orders of Government in the Financial Department. They will then receive due consideration."

BHAIRAB VALLEY DRAINAGE SCHEME.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to say in what stage are the Bhairab Valley Drainage Scheme and the Jessore Drainage Scheme, and whether any steps are being taken for the making of water-works in Jessore town?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"Government has no recent information in respect of the progress of the scheme for the drainage of the Bhairab Valley. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division will be asked to obtain from the Collector of Jessore a report as to how the project now stands. On receipt, the information will be supplied to the Hon'ble Member.

"The Sanitary Engineer reports that the designing of the Jessore Drainage Scheme has been practically completed, and there only remains the tracing of the original drawings to be done. The scheme will be ready for submission to the Municipal Commissioners by the end of the year.

"That officer also reports, in regard to the water-works project, that it has been found impossible to obtain a good supply of water from wells sunk in the bed of the Bhairab, and that, therefore, the source of supply will have to be tanks. The Municipal Commissioners have been asked to decide along which streets pipes should be laid."

[*Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. Streatfeild; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Duke; Mr. Oldham.*]

LAW COLLEGE.

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to say whether it intends to make a large grant for the Law College proposed to be established by the Calcutta University? Will the Government be pleased to consider the admittedly inadequate means at its command, and whether there is any special necessity for such a college, and also the urgency of other educational demands which it is unable to meet, before making any such grant?

The Hon'ble MR. STREATFEILD replied:—

"This Government is fully convinced of the need for the Law College which the Calcutta University propose to establish. It is not anticipated, however, that much financial assistance will be required from Government; and it would be obviously premature to pretend to determine, at the present time, the amount of the grant that may be required or that may be reasonable."

THE MIDNAPUR CASE.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

(*a*) Is it a fact, as stated by Mr. Keays, Barrister-at-law, a defence Counsel in the Midnapur case, and reported in the *Statesman* of the 5th instant, that the refusal of the copies of the confession and the admission was made on the ground that they were not formally on the record, although they were used as an argument for not granting bail to the accused?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a report of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 9th September, that a Police Sub-Inspector had brought back the Raja of Narajole from the door of the Court-room, "touching his neck from behind," and is this a fact?

(*c*) Is it a fact that Asutos Das, who, it is said, had been suffering from sinus in the hand, was arrested by Police who were in plain clothes, without a warrant, and handled so violently that his piteous cries compelled his mother to come to the protection of her son when she was seriously injured by the Police?

The Hon'ble Mr. DUKE replied:—

"None of these matters has been reported to Government. They are all matters which will either come before the Court of the Magistrate inquiring into the case in ordinary course or with which he is competent to deal if brought to his notice. Government does not consider that its intervention is called for at present."

THE BENGAL REPEALING BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM moved that the Bill to repeal the Howrah and Suburban Municipal Police Act, 1884, be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM also moved that the Bill be passed. He said:—

"As I explained on the last occasion, this is merely a formal measure. As the Howrah Municipality has been relieved of all police charges by the Government of India, and as the Suburban Municipality was abolished in the year 1888, there is no longer any necessity to retain this Act on the Statute Book. For these reasons it is proposed to repeal it. I move now that the Bill be passed."

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE CHOTA NAGPUR ENCUMBERED ESTATES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, 1876.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council. He said:—

"The Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act was passed thirty-two years ago in order to check the transfer of the patrimonies of ancient families who had formerly been the independent or semi-independent Feudal Chiefs of the country to alien purchasers.

"This process had attained serious proportions and threatened to be politically disastrous, for the Zamindars of old families, although often improvident, were respected by the people, and themselves respected the customary and traditional usages connected with land tenure, which are very different in Chota Nagpur to the more ordinary contractual relations of Bengal.

"New purchasers on the other hand in many cases, men of alien descent, whose sole aim and object is to make money, often insist on exacting as much as they can from the tenantry without regard to customary rights and privileges and their conduct has more than once provoked serious disturbances.

"That the law was wisely conceived and has generally answered the purpose for which it was passed is made clear by the fact that in March 1908, thirty-two years after it was passed, no less than 125 estates were being managed under its provisions.

"Experience has, however, exposed several defects in its operation.

"One of the most serious is that it may operate to render a reckless proprietor still more improvident in incurring debt.

"Once he realizes that the estate is so dipped that it cannot recover in his own time, he is under some temptation to continue his course as long as he can borrow anything at all, relying on Government to preserve the estate continually for his heirs. In several cases this has been carried so far that redemption has been found hopeless and Government has been obliged to stand aside and see an historic family dispossessed.

"To remedy this state of things, it is proposed that when it has become clear that a course of wasteful extravagance has been entered on, the Government may intervene and take the estate under management.

"The provision is contained in the second sub-clause of clause 2.

"Strong as it is the measure has been approved in principle by a majority of the great landowners of Chota Nagpur who have been consulted on it. It is recognized, however, as a measure which should only be used in exceptional circumstances; and it is therefore provided that the Local Government shall only approve such action in the case of families of political or social importance, or when it is desirable in the interest of the tenants. In order to enable the Deputy Commissioner to initiate action under this section, he is given by clause 3 power to obtain the necessary information as to the income of the estate and debts of the proprietor. Another important proposal is to give greater facilities to the Managers of encumbered estates to borrow money, whether for the consolidation of debt or for improvements. At present they can only borrow from Government or upon usufructuary mortgage and then only for re-payment of debt. It is then proposed by clause 12 to give power to borrow from any proper source at rates of interest approved by the Board of Revenue, and not only for payment of debt but also for the improvement of the estate. This may, in the long run, prove the best means for extinguishing debt.

"This necessitates clause 4 also, as provision has to be made for the repayment of debts so contracted.

[*Mr. Duke; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

"Another proposal is to prevent grants or assignments made to relatives in view of pending insolvency.

"Such grants defeat the creditors and make it difficult for Government to rehabilitate the estate, but it is only proposed in clause 6 to deal with them when the Commissioner is satisfied that they were not made in good faith.

"The next amendment to which I would direct the attention of the Council is that contained in clause 10. It has been found that improvident proprietors, whose estates have been taken under protection, continue to raise debts on bond, which being without security are generally at ruinous interest. As soon as the estate is released, they validate these bonds so that the estate shortly again becomes insolvent. It is therefore proposed to render a proprietor who has been restored to the possession of his property incapable (without the sanction of the Local Government) of again encumbering or of alienating the property. At one time it was thought that to render this measure effective, it would be necessary to incapacitate the heir also, but it has now been decided that it would be unfair to impose such a disability on a person who is not responsible for the original insolvency.

"The next two matters appear to have been mere oversights in the original law.

"Clause 11 empowers the Manager of an encumbered estate to investigate the titles of tenure-holders and under-tenure-holders.

"Clause 12 empowers the Manager to except leases—new section 18B.

"Clause 13 makes provision for the compulsory education of the children of proprietors, but only of such as have not been brought under protection by the initiative of the Deputy Commissioner.

"In fact the force of the provision is that, if a proprietor voluntarily seeks the protection of this law, he must agree to educate his family, and by so doing, to provide the best safeguard against their falling into similar difficulties.

"By clause 14 it is proposed to give the Board of Revenue the general power of supervision and control which it has under other Revenue laws and which can only be an additional safeguard for the proper exercise of the law.

"Clause 15 aims at preventing a disqualified proprietor from wasting money in litigation in which the Manager is not joined as a party.

"The Bill which I have had the honour to introduce and of which I have described the principal provisions is modest in its pretensions; it seeks only to remedy some of the more obvious defects in the existing law, but it is hoped that, so far as it goes, it will result in estates coming less frequently under the operation of the law, at least for a second time; in their remaining under protection for a shorter period, and in the production of a class of proprietors more alive to their obligations and to their best interests."

The Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh said:—"I was not aware that the Bill would be introduced in today's meeting of the Council until entering the Council Chamber I saw the list of business placed on the table. I have had no opportunity to read the Bill, much less to consult any constituents."

The Honble Mr. Duke introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council.

The motion was put and agreed to and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Duke also moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Greer, the Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild, the Hon'ble Mr. Chapman, the Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh, the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan, the Hon'ble Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari and the Mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

[*Mr. Greer ; Babu Gajadhar Prasad ; Mr. Vincent.*]

THE BENGAL COURT OF WARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. GREER moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Court of Wards Act, 1879.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. GREER introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council. He said:—

"The Bill is a very short one. I do not think I need detain the Council with any lengthy description of it.

"The object is two-fold:—to facilitate the raising of loans for a ward's estate for the liquidation or consolidation of its debts, and to enable the Court of Wards to invest the surplus funds of an estate to better advantage.

"Under the existing law in this Province, loans for a ward's estate on mortgage of landed property can only be obtained from private parties. The number of capitalists who possess local knowledge of the conditions of an estate is usually so small that there is practically no free competition and, consequently, a higher rate of interest has to be paid than is justified by the security offered.

"At the same time there is always some estate which is in a position to advance the money from its surplus funds. Both estates, accordingly, are the losers. The clause will admit of loans being made from the funds of one estate under the administration of the Court of Wards to another such estate. Such loans, of course, would only be granted to solvent estates. The experience of the Court of Wards in the United Provinces has proved them to be both a remunerative investment and a convenient and economical means of providing funds for indebted estates. There is no reason why the estates under the Court of Wards in Bengal should be in a less favourable condition."

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said:—"With Your Honour's permission, I would like to say something in support of this measure. My experience of Bihar, tells me that it sometimes happens an estate under the Court of Wards may have money in deposit, but cannot advance it on safe credit, because it does not find a safe debtor. Another estate, under the Court of Wards, may be in urgent need, but may not find a suitable creditor, and the Court of Wards is helpless and cannot do anything in the matter. Sometimes Civil Courts are requested to postpone execution for months and months at the instance of the Court of Wards, but the Court of Wards is unable to raise the money in time. I think it will be affording benefit to both, because money will be always safe in the hands of the Court of Wards, and I think this measure should be carried."

The motion was then put and agreed to, and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble MR. GREER also moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Duke, the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham, the Hon'ble Mr. Chapman, the Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan, the Hon'ble Mr. Brown and the Mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE CHOTA NAGPUR TENANCY BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend and consolidate certain enactments relating to the law of landlord and tenant and the settlement of rents in Chota Nagpur be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

[*Mr. Vincent; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that the clauses of the Bill be considered in the form recommended by the Select Committee.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that, in clause 12A (*now* 13)* of the Bill, for the words "or his agent" the words "or of his agent if specially authorized in that behalf" be substituted. He said:—

"I propose this substitution in order to make the sense quite clear and to bring the language into conformity with that used in the Bengal Tenancy Act, in order to convey the same idea. Sir, it is extremely desirable that uniformity of language to express a common idea should be preserved in all the enactments of a Legislature. There is no doubt, Sir, as to what is intended by the words 'or his agent'. What is really intended is, that only a specially authorized agent can, by written consent, validate the sub-division of a tenancy made by a tenant. To make this sense quite clear, I propose this substitution, and I hope this motion will be acceptable to all the Hon'ble Members."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH seconded this motion.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, in clause 16 (*now* 18) of the Bill, for the words "sub-sections (*4*), (*5*) and (*6*) of section 15 (*now* 17) shall apply to such persons" the following be substituted, namely:—

sub-sections (*3*) to (*6*) of section 15 (*now* 17) shall apply to such persons as if they were raiyats.

He said:—"This amendment is in the main a drafting amendment. In one particular there is, however, a substantial change proposed in the Bill. We have provided that Bhuinhars and Mundari khunt-kattidars who hold, and have held their lands in a village for a period of 12 years, shall be deemed to be settled raiyats of a village. It was pointed out that no provision had been made for the case of a Bhuinhar or Mundari khunt-kattidar who had inherited land from his father within a period of 12 years, although the joint occupation of father and son might exceed this period. To meet this we have made sub-section (*3*) of section 15 (*now* 17) apply to the case of such tenants."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that, in sub-clause (*a*) of clause 24 (*now* 26) of the Bill, for the word "seven" the word "three" be substituted. He said:—

"The object of clause 24 (*now* 26) is to annul enhancements of rent brought about by private contract during the last seven years. Under the existing law, which regulates the relations between landlord and tenant in Chota Nagpur Division, there is no specific prohibition against enhancement of rent by private contract. As a matter of fact, as stated in the Notice on Clauses appended to the Bill, rents have been increased in a very large number of cases by private contract. Now, Sir, if it is declared by a stroke of the pen by this Legislature that such enhancements made in the course of the last seven years are invalid, it will, I fear, be regarded as a great hardship by the landlords of Chota Nagpur. Sir, in the present Bill, a provision has been introduced by which enhancement of rent by private contract is altogether prohibited. This is a drastic measure, and in point of stringency goes beyond the Bengal Tenancy Act. I, however, Sir, do not raise my word of protest against that provision, for it is just possible that, in a backward place like Chota Nagpur, the bulk of the rural population, as a rule, may be yet in such a stage of primitive simplicity as not to be able to hold their own in

* The clauses and sub-clauses of the Bill having been re-numbered under the direction of the Council, the present number of each clause and sub-clause is inserted in brackets, wherever the new numbering differs from the old.

entering into a contract with the zamindars; but, Sir, to make a clean sweep of all contracts for enhancement of rent during the last seven years, will, I consider, be a great source of grievance to them. Section 29 of the Bengal Tenancy Act deals with the enhancement of rent by private contract. That provision of law, as Your Honour is aware, subject to certain limitations, validates enhancements of rent, if the enhanced rent has been paid continuously for three years. Sir, I will ask the Council to follow the precedent of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and to allow the retrospective operation of this provision of the law only in regard to contracts made within three years from the commencement of this Act."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—"I regret I am unable to support the amendment moved by my hon'ble friend. He says there is no provision existing in the Chota Nagpur Rent Act by which private enhancement is in any manner prohibited, but if we have a look at section 21 of the existing Rent Act of Chota Nagpur, we find that it lays down: 'No other under-tenant or raiyat having a right of occupancy shall be liable to any enhancement of the rent previously paid by him, otherwise than in the manner provided under this section.' Reading this section as it stands, one would infer that the enhancement of rent payable by an occupancy raiyat can only be effected by filing a petition before the Deputy Commissioner. This section was subject to great discussion; and reading section 44 of the Rent Act along with section 21, one may say that private enhancements were not altogether interdicted. But, at any rate, section 21 of the existing Rent Act, as it stands, did not allow private enhancement, in the same sense as the Bengal Tenancy Act does, and it should also be borne in mind that there is a limit put by the Bengal Tenancy Act on all private enhancements, namely, that such enhancements should not exceed two annas in the rupee of the rent previously payable by the raiyat. And when private enhancement in Chota Nagpur was under no such limit, if there had been any private enhancement, I think that it is very necessary to see that such enhancement was fair and equitable, but three years' payment does not give us a guarantee that it was so. Under the circumstances, I do not think the period of three years would be quite adequate, though at the same time I am rather doubtful whether the period of seven years is not too long, and I may have to say something on the next amendment, when moved."

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT said:—"I regret that I am unable to recommend the Council to accept this amendment. Under the existing Law, as will be seen on an examination of section 24 of Act I of 1879, all enhancements of the rent of an occupancy raiyat made otherwise than by order of the Deputy Commissioner are prohibited. It has been found, however, that in many cases, this provision of the Law has been evaded, and to meet such cases the proposals contained in clause 24 (*now* 26) of the Bill have been made. It does not appear to me that landlords have any reasonable ground for complaint in the matter; in fact a very great concession is being made to them. They have enhanced rents in direct violation of the existing Law: nevertheless, in order to avoid creating disturbances and dissensions, the Government is prepared to validate such illegal contracts, provided that the rents have been paid for a space of 7 years, and no sound reasons have been given for reducing that period.

"The argument in favour of a period of three years based on section 29 of the Bengal Tenancy Act is of no weight. Enhancements under section 29 are subject to two conditions—firstly, the contract must be in writing and registered, and secondly, the enhancement is not to exceed two annas in the rupee. The proviso regarding 3 years' payments only affects the condition that a contract must be in writing and registered, and if enhancements of over two annas in the rupee are made, then payments for 5 or 7 years will not, under the Bengal Tenancy Act, validate a claim for the enhanced rent. To argue therefore that, in legalizing enhancements, provided they are not unfair and inequitable, in Chota Nagpur, we should follow the 3 years' rule of the Bengal Tenancy Act is unsound. We admit enhancements over

[*Mr. Vincent; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

two annas in the rupee if they are not unfair but we require a reasonably lengthy period of payment to raise a presumption that the rent is fair and that the raiyat has willingly paid it."

The motion was put and lost.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that since the last amendment was lost, in sub-clause (*a*) of clause 24 (*now* 26) of the Bill for the word "seven" the word "five" be substituted. He said:—

"Since the foregoing amendment is lost I make this alternative proposal. I think it will be under the circumstances the better course to accept a mean between 3 and 7 years for annulling enhancements of rents arranged under private contracts. It seems to me, Sir, that the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill is wrong in interpreting the provision of the Bengal Tenancy Act in regard to enhancements of rent by private contract. Three years' continuous payment of rent will under that law validate enhancements of rent, even if the contract for enhancement is not in writing and is not registered, provided the increment is not more than two annas in the rupee. If it is in writing and registered, then three years' continuous payment of enhanced rent is not a *sine quâ non*, but the limitation of two annas in the rupee applies to it as well. I trust, 5 years' limit will be acceptable to the Hon'ble Members."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—"I am not sure whether the period of 7 years is quite proper, it seems to be a little too long. If the Hon'ble Member in charge accepts this amendment, I am with him."

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT said:—"I am not prepared to accept this amendment. The period of 7 years, as specified, has been accepted in these cases by the Settlement Department in Chota Nagpur for some years, I believe, and I am unwilling to reduce it. I regret the fact that I did not apparently make myself clear in regard to the meaning of section 29 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. That section is really quite clear. Where there is an enhancement over two annas in the rupee, 3 or 4 or 5 years' payment will not validate it; therefore, it is not safe, I say, to argue from the analogy of that Act to the Chota Nagpur Act. I see no reason to alter the period or diminish the period of 7 years as stated in the Bill."

The motion was then put and lost.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that, after the first proviso to sub-clause (*1*) of clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely:

> Provided, further, that when the enhancement is claimed on the ground of a rise in prices,—
>
> (i) the Deputy Commissioner shall compare the average prices during the decennial period immediately preceding the making of the application with the average prices during such other decennial period as it may appear equitable and practicable to take for comparison;
>
> (ii) the enhanced rent shall bear to the previous rent the same proportion as the average prices during the last decennial period bear to the average prices during the previous decennial period taken for comparison; provided that, in calculating this proportion, the average prices during the later period shall be reduced by one-third of their excess over the average prices during the earlier period;
>
> (iii) if, in the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner, it is not practicable to take the decennial periods prescribed in clause (*i*), he may, in his discretion, substitute any shorter periods therefor.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, also moved that the following proviso to sub-clause (*1*) of clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill be omitted, namely:

Provided, further, that all enhancements shall be limited in the prescribed manner (if any).

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

He said:—"I take these two amendments together at the request of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, though they deal with different questions. The first amendment is to add the proviso just read by me to clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill. It is merely a reproduction of section 32 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The second ground laid down under clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill authorizes enhancements of rent, on the basis of a rise in the average local prices of staple food crops. It is found, as a matter of fact, that it is difficult to work out enhancements on that ground, unless some definite lines are indicated as to the method of inquiry to be pursued for the purpose of determining what would be a fair enhancement on that basis. Owing to a general rise in the price of food-crops, the cultivators at the present time derive a substantially larger profit by the sale of their field produce. The rise in the price is due to circumstances not brought about either by the exertions or at the cost of either the tenant or the landlord. Under such circumstances, Sir, the unearned increment ought to be fairly apportioned between the landlord and the tenant. A definite rule of proportion for such apportionment ought therefore to be laid down in the body of the law itself for the guidance of the Courts, which will have to deal with cases for enhancement of rent on the basis of the rise of price of staple food-crops. Section 32 of the Bengal Tenancy Act formed part of that Act when it was passed in the year 1885. I think, Sir, you will pardon my referring briefly to the antecedent literature which led to the framing of that section in the Bengal Tenancy Act. Sir, you are well aware that an important Commission was appointed a few years before the Bengal Tenancy Act was launched to investigate thoroughly all questions relating to landlords and tenants, with particular reference to the Permanent Settlement Regulations and the immense volume of literature on the subject, and to examine the then state of the laws regulating the relations of the landlord and the tenant. The members of the Commission submitted a valuable report, and the Tenancy Act of 1885 is mainly grounded on it. Speaking about enhancements of rents on the basis of rise in the average prices of food-grains, the report says:—

> From this analysis it will appear that the component elements of this ground of enhancement are sufficiently complex; and looking at the above considerations, it is not very easy to say how the increment arising from increase of price ought to be divided so as to make the division fair to both parties.

"The Commission recommended that the increment should be equally divided between landlord and tenant on that ground. But the Select Committee, which sat to consider the Bill which afterwards became the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885, preferred to follow the proportion laid down in the well-known case, popularly called the Great Rent Case, which was decided by a Full Bench of the Calcutta High Court, consisting of all the learned Judges of that Court, during the Justiceship of the late Sir Barnes Peacock. They accordingly fixed that one-third of the increment will go to the tenant and two-thirds to the landlord. The reason the Select Committee assigned for giving the one-third to the tenant was to cover the increase of cost of production. The Select Committee, on this point, reported as follows:—

> We recognised the difficulty of making the Courts ascertain the actual cost of production, and as it was necessary to fix an arbitrary limit, we have fixed the deduction of one-third as a general rule.

"Sir, this was the state of the law in the year 1885, and it stands unchanged even now, in spite of the several revisions it has gone through, notably the last exhaustive revision by Your Honour's Council last year. I think, Sir, that the rule of proportion laid down in the Bengal Tenancy Act is supposed to be fair and equitable even now. I therefore submit, Sir, that the addition of this proviso will be a great help to the judicial and executive officers in ascertaining fair enhancements of rents on the basis of the rise in the average prices of food-grains in the locality. I will also add, Sir, that this provision of the Bengal Tenancy Act has been extended to Orissa. A survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights are now in progress in Chota Nagpur, and I hope, Sir, that in the course of a few years it will be completed. The papers which will be available in such a survey will help to determine a fair enhancement of rent on the two other grounds

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

mentioned in clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill, but I do not think, Sir, that those papers will be of any great help in the determination of the question of enhancement of rent on this ground. It is therefore desirable that a proper proportion should be laid down in the Chota Nagpur Act, such as has been done in the Bengal Tenancy Act.

"I shall now submit my observations on the second part of the amendment. In the law that is at present in force in Chota Nagpur, no definite grounds have been laid down for enhancements of rent. Such a condition of the law is unsatisfactory, and it will, I am sure, be remedied by clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill. The first proviso to that clause lays down definitely the three grounds on which alone an enhancement of rent should be allowed. As the marginal notes of the Bill inform us, these grounds have been borrowed from the United Provinces Tenancy Act and the second proviso from the Tenancy Act in vogue in Bengal. That second proviso is in the nature of an elastic safeguard, which says that no Court shall decree any enhancement of rent which is, under the circumstances of the case, unfair or inequitable. But, Sir, the Bill does not stop there, but it proceeds further and proposes the unprecedented course of restricting enhancements by rules to be framed by the Local Government, even when one or more of the conditions laid down in proviso (*1*) of clause 27 (*now* 29) has or have been satisfied and the increment is also found to be fair and equitable. This, Sir, seems to be a very objectionable method of legislation.

"I, Sir, deprecate legislation by rules, which, I respectfully submit, should be confined to details as auxiliary to the main principles enunciated in the body of the law itself, but which should not control, override or limit them. Sir, the limitations for the right of the landlords to enhance the rent of their tenants should be fully stated in the body of the law, and not partly in the law and the rest in the rules, giving the rules the pre-eminent position to limit enhancements which satisfy the conditions laid down in the law which sanctioned the making of rules. Sir, I am not aware of the way in which the enhancement is going to be limited by the rules, but the proviso as it is at present worded admits of considerable latitude. It will enable the Local Government to lay down rules to restrict enhancements, even after all the conditions laid down in the Act are satisfied and they are found to be fair and equitable. Sir, any limitation on what is fair and equitable can hardly be founded on sound principle. The enhancement is fair and equitable, and ought to be the last word on the subject. But, Sir, if the proviso I protest against, read with sub-clause (*1*) of clause 256 (*now* 264) of the Bill which speaks of the rules to be laid down by the Government, means that the Local Government shall have power to make rules for prescribing the manner in which fair rents should be ascertained on the basis of the grounds laid down in the first proviso of clause 27 (*now* 29) then I respectfully submit that the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill should frame the proviso in such a way as to convey that sense, and then, Sir, I for one shall heartily support it."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—"I am certainly in sympathy with the first part of the amendment, but at the same time I do not think that this addition is absolutely necessary for the purposes of our Act. Clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill deals with an application for enhancement. The Deputy Commissioner shall have to consider all the circumstances set forth in that application, and he may decree such enhancements as may seem to be fair and reasonable. I should say that, in considering the circumstances of the case, the Deputy Commissioner will certainly consider the data which are sought to be provided for by the amendment which is practically section 32 of the Bengal Tenancy Act; so I do not think that it would be absolutely necessary to have that amendment in our Act: nevertheless, I should say, I am not opposed to it. As regards the second part of the amendment, I must say that I had considerable difficulty in giving my consent to this proviso in clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill when the Bill was discussed in the Select Committee. I must say that I was opposed to this proviso from the very beginning, because to my mind it

appears that there are already in the Act sufficient safeguards to ensure the fairness of enhanced rent. We have in this Bill, Sir, done away with all private enhancements after the passing of the Act. Enhancement can hereafter only be made by either the Deputy Commissioner or the Revenue-officer, and when we take into consideration the fact that we have put in a clause to the effect that no enhancement should be allowed if unfair and inequitable, I think we have provided sufficient safeguards for the purpose we have in view. But the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill was of opinion that unless this proviso was added, the raiyats will be ruined in many cases. I should be the last man to protest against any measure which is calculated to prevent the ruin of the raiyats. But I gave my consent to this proviso, as I was given to understand that, if any such limits be prescribed by the Government, the people will have an opportunity to represent their views, and the notification which may be issued on this subject will not be validated finally before the people are given such opportunity. I submit to Your Honour that we have provided many things in the Bill to be prescribed by notification, but in regard to this particular matter, I should say that in case the Hon'ble Member in charge does not see his way to accept this amendment, the people should be given sufficient opportunity to place their views before Government. Subject to this limitation, I gave my consent to this proviso."

THE Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said:—"The choice in the Select Committee was as to whether the enhancement was to be limited to two annas in the rupee or something else. That might make matters far worse than if the enhancement was not so limited. The Select Committee under the circumstances were convinced that it would be best to leave the matter alone for the present, as both the raiyats and the landlords could be sure of more generous treatment if the Government was allowed to make rules than if they were limited to two annas in the rupee. It was not considered advisable to limit the enhancement by the Act, because in Chota Nagpur, where the prices of food-grains had an abnormal rise, an enhancement of two annas in the rupee would not be inadequate. Therefore, Sir, I am unable to support the second part of the amendment. Nor can I support the first part because, as has been pointed out, sub-clause (*c*) of clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill gives the Deputy Commissioner abundant opportunities to take into consideration all the circumstances placed before him. We must remember that in regard to section 32 of the Bengal Act, we have not in Chota Nagpur that class of Courts which the Bengal Act deals with. Moreover, the Deputy Commissioner, who would have to deal with these matters with his very many other duties, would be overburdened, if all these complex rules of the Bengal Act were to be made a part of the Chota Nagpur Act. Having regard to sub-clause (*c*) of clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill, there is no reason why the details laid down in section 32 of the Bengal Act or any other details that may be necessary to consider should not be fully gone into by the Deputy Commissioner, if he chooses so to do. These are, however, provisions, Sir, that we can hardly advise the Council to incorporate in the present Bill."

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT said:—"I regret also that on this point I can only recommend the Council to reject the proposed amendment. It is essentially necessary that power to limit these enhancements should be retained by the Local Government. Rules need not necessarily be issued under sub-clause (*c*) of clause 27 (*now* 29) of the Bill, but rules will be issued if any necessity arises. If the proviso which it is proposed to omit is examined, it will be seen that it runs thus: 'Provided, further, that all enhancements shall be limited in the prescribed manner (if any).' Prices of staple food-crops have, in many parts of Chota Nagpur, increased 200 and 300 *per cent.* within the last 20 years, and, if enhancements based on these prices are allowed in the manner proposed in the amendment of the Hon'ble Member, the most serious agrarian disturbances will in all probability result. We have been referred to the Bengal Tenancy Act as the authority for the proposed amendment, but it has to be remembered that this Bill under discussion is one affecting aboriginal races in Chota Nagpur, and arguments based on the analogy of Bengal cannot be safely accepted in the case of such races.

[*Mr. Vincent; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

"Personally, I may go further and say that I doubt very much if, even in Bengal, the provisions of section 32 of the Bengal Tenancy Act have ever been given full effect to, and I believe, if any general attempt is made to enhance rents in accordance with that section, there will be danger of serious discontent and disturbance among the agrarian population of the province. At any rate, in Chota Nagpur, for political reasons alone, it is necessary that the Government should retain power to limit those enhancements of the rents of occupancy raiyats, but, as I have said, it is optional with the Government to make rules, and not obligatory upon them to do so. It has been said that the words 'unfair and inequitable' in the second proviso of this clause provide a sufficient safeguard for the interests of raiyats, but you have to consider the point put before by one Hon'ble Member, that the Courts trying these cases will be the Courts of Deputy Commissioners. The words 'Deputy Commissioner' have been defined in the Bill and include Deputy Collectors, Assistant Collectors, and in certain circumstances Sub-Deputy Collectors empowered under the Act. In deciding whether rent is fair and equitable, or unfair and inequitable, a great deal depends on the personal equation. What one man may consider fair, another man may consider unfair; and bearing in mind the fact that comparatively inexperienced officers will try these cases, it is, therefore, the more necessary for the Government to retain power to prescribe rules generally limiting the amount of those enhancements, in order to obtain at least some uniformity in these cases. The Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh is apprehensive, if I understood him correctly, that rules will be issued by Government without due consideration and without any opportunity being offered to the public of criticizing the same. This is incorrect. Before any rules are finally adopted, there must be, I believe, a draft publication, and during the period of this draft publication the public will have ample opportunity of criticizing the rules and submitting their views in regard to the same."

The motion was put and lost.

The Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, moved that at the end of sub-clause (*f*) of clause 30 (*now* 31) of the Bill the following be added, namely:—

> or, if the landlord is unable to indicate any particular land as being held in excess, then the area alone.

He said:—"Clause 30 (*now* 31) of the Bill has been framed on the lines of section 52 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. As it was framed in 1885, it was without the sub-sections (*5*) and (*6*). Serious practical difficulties in the working of that section as it was in 1885 had been found, and the interpretation of the section as made by the High Court in their several rulings added to those difficulties, with the result that it was practically impossible to get any excess rent from excess area. The landlords generally do not possess complete records of their properties, and they are unable to indicate what is the particular excess land in respect of which they claim excess rent. To obviate that difficulty, the amending Act of 1898 was passed, which added the following sub-section to section 52:—

> (*5*) When in a suit under this section the landlord or tenant is unable to indicate any particular land as held in excess, the rent to be added on account of the excess area may be calculated at the average rate of rent paid on all the lands of the holding, exclusive of such excess area.

"In order that clause 30 (*now* 31) of the Bill may fit in with sub-section (*5*) of section 52 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, I have condensed the long sub-section into a short paragraph. I hope, Sir that this will be acceptable to the Hon'ble Members of this Council and to the other Hon'ble Members."

The motion was put and agreed to

The Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, moved that before the proviso to sub-clause (*1*) of clause 31 (*now* 32) of the Bill the following be inserted, namely:—

> Provided that, if the landlord proves that, at the time when the measurement on which the claim is based was made, there existed, in the estate or tenure or part thereof in which the holding is situate, a practice of measuring land before settling rents, the Deputy Commissioner may presume that the area of the holding as entered in any lease or counterpart engagement or (where there is an entry of area in a counterfoil receipt corresponding to the entry in the rent-roll) in the rent-roll relating to the holding was so entered after measurement.

[Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur ; Babu Deba Prasad Sarbadhikari ; Mr. Vincent ; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.]

He said :—"This is of course reproducing with certain alterations of a verbal character sub-section (*6*) of section 52 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, in order to fit in with the framework of the clause 31 (*now* 32) of the Bill. The sub-section (*6*) of section 52 of the Bengal Tenancy Act is due to the amending Act which was passed last year by this Council, and I hope, Sir, that this will be also acceptable to the Hon'ble Members of this Council."

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI said :—"This amendment was very much needed."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 55 (*now* 54) of the Bill, after the word "agent" the words "free of charge" be inserted. He said :—

"The law makes it obligatory upon every landlord to grant a receipt to a tenant for any rents paid. The words 'free of charge' are now inserted to make it clear that no fee can be demanded by a landlord for the delivery of such receipt."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said :—"I think this amendment is a necessary provision for Chota Nagpur, and I support the motion."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, in the proviso to clause 61 (*now* 60) of the Bill, for the words "rent which accrued due before the date of the sale and any rent so due" the following be substituted, namely :—

rent for any period prior to the date of sale, and rent due for any such period.

He said :—"The reason for this amendment is that it is the intention of the Government that a purchaser of a tenure or holding in execution of a rent decree shall obtain the same free of any liability for rent due prior to the date of sale. As the clause stands, a purchaser may be made liable for an instalment of rent which accrues due after the date of sale, for a period prior to the sale ; that is to say the date on which the instalment is payable may be later than the date of sale, though the rent may be due for a period prior to the sale. It is, therefore, necessary to make it clear that the purchaser of a tenure or holding is not to be called on to pay rent for any period prior to the sale."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, at the end of the first paragraph of clause 88 [*now* sub-clause (*1*) of clause 89] of the Bill, after the words "section 86 (*now* 87)," the following be inserted, namely :—

or any order passed in appeal under section 84 (*now* 85), sub-section (*2a*) [*now* (4)].

He said :—"Under section 88 [*now* 89 (1)] as it stands, a Revenue-officer specially empowered in this behalf may revise and correct an entry in a record-of-rights. It is not desirable that he should be allowed to revise or correct any entry made in consequence of the decision of an appeal under section 84 (*now* 85), and this amendment provides against his making any alteration in a record in such cases."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, in the proviso to clause 88 (*now* 89) of the Bill, before the words "section 86 (*now* 87)" the words "section 84 (*now* 85), sub-section (*2a*) [*now* (4)], or" be inserted. He said :—

"This amendment follows as a necessary consequence upon the previous one."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that clause 88 of the Bill be numbered 89 (*1*) [*now* 89 (*1*)], and that the following be inserted thereafter, namely :—

[*Mr. Vincent; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

He said:—"It is advisable to provide for an appeal against an order of a Revenue-officer revising a record under clause 88 [*now* 89(*1*)], and the amendment is proposed to meet this object."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH supported the motion.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that the following amendments be made in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 123A (*now* 128) of the Bill, namely:—

(*a*) before "section 82 (*now* 83)" insert "section 80 (*now* 81);"

(*b*) for "section 89, section 91, section 94 and section 96" substitute "sections 88 (*now* 89) to 96;"

(*c*) for "shall apply to such record as if it were a record referred to in these sections" substitute "shall apply as if such record were referred to in those sections."

He said:—"Clause 123A (*now* 128) is part of Chapter XV which deals with the preparation of a final record-of-rights of village headmen, khunt-katti raiyats and others. Many of the provisions of Chapter XII, which deals with the preparation of an ordinary record-of-rights, are applicable in the case of records prepared under Chapter XV, and the amendment has been framed to utilize these provisions in the case of records prepared under Chapter XV."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, in sub-clause (*2*) of clause 123A (*now* 128) of the Bill, for the words "section 97" the words "sections 94 (*now* 95) to 97" be inserted. He said:—

"This amendment is proposed for similar reasons to those just given for the previous amendment."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that sub-clause (*b*) of clause 131 (*now* 136) of the Bill be omitted, and that, in sub-clause (*c*) of the same clause [*now* sub-clause (*b*) of clause 136], for the words "who is not in charge of a sub-division, but is specially empowered by the Local Government" the words "who is empowered" be substituted. He said:—

"The definition of 'Deputy Commissioner,' in clause 3, sub-clause (*viii*), has been amended, but by error this consequential amendment in clause 131 (*now* 136) was omitted."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that after clause 137 (*now* 141) of the Bill the following be inserted, namely:—

Suit by co-sharer landlord for rent.

137A (*now* 142). (*1*) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 250A, a co-sharer landlord may institute a suit to recover from a tenant—

(*a*) his share of the rent, when such share is collected separately, or

(*b*) the whole of the rent due to the plaintiff and his co-sharers, when all or any of his co-sharers who refuse to join in the suit are made defendants therein.

(*2*) When, in a suit instituted under clause (*b*) of sub-section (*1*), the plaintiff is unable to ascertain what rent is due for the whole tenure or holding, or whether the rent due to the other co-sharer landlords has been paid or not, owing to the refusal or neglect of the tenant or the said landlords to furnish him with correct information on these points or either of them,

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur ; Mr. Vincent.*]

the Deputy Commissioner shall determine—

(*i*) what sum (if any) is due to the plaintiff for rent, interest thereon, and costs, and

(*ii*) what sums (if any) are due to the said landlords, respectively, on account of their share of the rent and interest thereon,

for the period in respect of which the suit is brought; and shall decree the suit accordingly.

(*3*) Notwithstanding anything contained in Explanation I to section 48 (*now* 47), or in section 195 (*now* 196), a decree awarding to a plaintiff a sum referred to in clause (*i*) of sub-section (*2*) shall, as regards the remedies for enforcing the same, be as effectual as a decree obtained by a sole landlord or an entire body of landlords in a suit brought for the rent due, to all the co-sharers.

(*4*) When the sums due from a tenant to any co-sharer landlord are determined under clause (*ii*) of sub-section (*2*), in respect of any period, then no further suit shall lie against such tenant for rent alleged to be due to such landlord in respect of that period.

He said:—"Sir, I understand that the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill is prepared to accept this. This addition is based on the lines of section 148A of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Section 148A was enacted last year simply for the purpose of giving relief to co-sharer landlords, who had no opportunity to recover rent by the sale of the tenancy. The history must be fresh in the minds of the Hon'ble Members, so I do not intend to dilate at length on this point. The co-sharer landlords of Bengal and Bihar are deeply grateful to Your Honour for affording them facilities to realize their rents by the enactment of section 148A of the Bengal Tenancy Act Your Honour will earn the gratitude of the co-sharer landlords of Chota Nagpur by extending the same facilities to them by sanctioning the addition proposed by me."

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT said:—"I recommend the Council to accept the amendment in its present form on the understanding that the amendment standing in the name of the Hon'ble Member, to insert before clause 251 (*now* 258) of the Bill a new clause 250A (*now* 257), is also pressed. If he will undertake to propose that amendment, I recommend the Council to accept the present one."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that the following words in sub-clause (*3*) of clause 140 (*now* 144) of the Bill be omitted, namely:—

the statement required by clause (*ii*) of sub-section (*2*) must also show the rental of the original tenancy according to the record-of-rights, and.

He said:—"Sub-clause (*2*) of clause 140 (*now* 144) already provides that the recorded rental of the tenancy shall be stated in any application under this clause. It is unnecessary, therefore, to provide for the same thing in sub-clause (*3*)."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that after clause 195 (*now* 196) of the Bill the following be inserted, namely:—

Execution of rent decree obtained by a co-sharer landlord.

195A (*now* 197). When one or more co-sharer landlords applies or apply for the execution of a decree obtained in a suit instituted under clause (*b*) of section 137A (*now* 142) by the sale of a tenure or holding, the Court executing such decree shall, before proceeding to sell the tenure or holding, give notice of the application for execution to the other co-sharers.

He said:—"The necessity of this addition to clause 195 (*now* 196) of the Bill is patent. Clause 137A (*now* 142) which has just been passed necessitates the safeguarding of the interest of co-sharer landlords other than those applying for execution of decree by giving notices to them of the decree by the sale of tenure or holding."

[*Mr. Vincent; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.*]

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT said:—"I recommend the Council to accept this amendment."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, also moved that after the word "sections," in clause 206 (*1*) [*now* 208 (*1*)] of the Bill, the figures "12" be inserted. He said:—

"The object of this is that section 12 of the Rent Recovery Act should not be made applicable to sales effected under the provisions of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill. The reason is that the provision of section 12 of that Act is not sufficiently wide to cover all cases that will spring up under the Rent Act which is now being enacted for Chota Nagpur. The next amendment which will be proposed by me deals with the disposal of the sale proceeds of a tenure or holding."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that after clause 206 (*now* 208) of the Bill the following be inserted, namely:—

Disposal of proceeds of sale under section 206.

206A (*now* 209). (*1*) In disposing of the proceeds of the sale of a tenure or holding under section 206 (*now* 208), the following procedure shall be observed, that is to say:—

(*a*) there shall be paid to the decree-holder the costs incurred by him in bringing the tenure or holding to sale;

(*b*) there shall, in the next place, be paid to the decree-holder the amount due to him under the decree in execution of which the sale was made;

(*c*) if there remains a balance after those sums have been paid, there shall be paid to the decree-holder therefrom any rent which may have accrued due to him in respect of the tenure or holding between the institution of the suit and the date of the sale; and

(*d*) the balance (if any) remaining after the payment of rent referred to in clause (*c*) shall, upon the expiration of two months from the confirmation of the sale, be paid to the judgment-debtor upon his application:

Provided that, where a tenure or holding has been sold in execution of a decree obtained by one or more co-sharer landlords in a suit instituted under clause (*b*) of section 137A (*now* 142),—

(*i*) payment of the amount due under such decree shall, notwithstanding anything contained in clause (*b*) of this section, be made to the decree-holder and to the other co-sharer landlords in proportion to the amount found to be due to each, and

(*ii*) if there remains a balance, payment of any rent which may have accrued due in respect of the tenure or holding between the institution of the suit and the date of sale shall, notwithstanding anything contained in clause (*c*), but subject to the determination, in the manner and with the effect mentioned in sub-section (*2*), of any dispute as to their respective rights to receive such rent, be made to the said decree-holder and other co-sharer landlords in proportion to their respective shares in the tenure or holding.

(*2*) If the judgment-debtor disputes the decree-holder's right to receive any sum on account of rent under clause (*c*), the Deputy Commissioner shall determine the dispute, and the determination shall have the force of a decree.

He said:—"This is merely a reproduction of section 169 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and I hope that both the foregoing and this amendment will be acceptable to the Hon'ble Members."

[Mr. Vincent ; Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur.]

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT said :—"I recommend the Council to accept this amendment as an improvement on the provisions of an existing law on the subject."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, before the first proviso in section 206 (*1*) [*now* 208 (*1*)] of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely :—

> Provided that the purchaser at any such sale shall not be entitled to annul any lease, right or tenancy referred to in clauses (*a*) to (*e*) of section 13 (*now* 14) of this Act.

He said :—"This is how the amendment stands on the list. With Your Honour's leave I propose that it should run in this manner: 'Provided that the purchaser of a tenure at any such sale, etc., etc.'

"The amendment is proposed in order to protect certain interests in the event of a sale of a tenure in execution of a decree for arrears of rent. When a resumable tenure is resumed under section 13 (*now* 14) certain interests have been safeguarded, and it is only reasonable that, in the event of the sale of a tenure, the same interests should be protected. There are, it may be noted, similar provisions in the Bengal Tenancy Act for the preservation of protected interests in sales in execution of decrees for rent obtained under that Act."

The motion was put in the amended form and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, in sub-clause (*3*) of clause 213 (*now* 215) of the Bill, after the figures "208 (*now* 211)" the following be inserted, namely :—

> of this Act or under section 280, section 281 or section 282 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

He said :—"Sales of immovable property in execution of decrees under this Act, in certain circumstances, are held in accordance with Bengal Act VIII of 1865, and in other cases are held in accordance with the Code of Civil Procedure—*vide* clauses 206 (*now* 208) and 207 (*now* 210) of the Bill. In sales under clause 206 (*now* 208), third parties claiming an interest in the property about to be sold can put forward claims under clause 208 (*now* 211), and the decision of the executing Court on such claims is not subject to appeal, but a right of separate suit within one year is reserved. In the case of sales under the Code of Civil Procedure, sections 278 to 284 of that Code have been made applicable by clause 207 (*now* 210) of the Bill, and there is, in the case of ordinary Civil Courts, no appeal against an order made under section 280, 281 or 282, but in clause 213 (*now* 215) of the Bill all orders passed after decree and relating to the execution thereof, except orders under clauses 204 (*now* 206) and 208 (*now* 211) are made appealable. It is necessary, therefore, to make it clear that, in the case of sales under clause 207 (*now* 210) of the Bill held in accordance with the Code of Civil Procedure no appeal lies against any order passed under sections 280, 281 or 282 of that Code."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that, after clause 229 (*now* 232) of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely :—

Limitation of certain suits for ejectment.

> 229A (*now* 233). Suits for the ejectment of an occupancy-raiyat or a non-occupancy raiyat on any of the grounds mentioned in section 21 (*now* 22) or in clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of section 41 shall be instituted within two years from the date of the misuse or breach complained of.

He said :—"Having regard to the backward condition of the landlords and tenants in Chota Nagpur, the Bill has in several instances for the benefit of the tenants provided much longer periods of limitation than those provided in the Bengal Tenancy Act for similar cases. In the present instance, which is for the benefit of the landlord, the current has run counter. One year's limitation has been provided in this case; whereas in suits under the section of the Bengal Tenancy Act corresponding to clause 21(*b*) [*now* 22(*b*)] two years'

limitation has been provided. I think that in such a backward place as Chota Nagpur, two years' limitation should be provided for all ejectment suits referred to in my amendment. It cannot be expected that landlords in Chota Nagpur can be as vigilant as those in Bengal."

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT said:—"I recommend the Council to accept this amendment."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, in clause 234 (*now* 238) of the Bill, for the words "possession of a village by a village headman, whether known as a pradhan, manji or otherwise" the following be substituted, namely:—

> possession of his office or agricultural land by a headman of a village or a group of villages, whether known as manki or pradhan or manji or otherwise.

He said:—"The wording of clause 134 (*now* 139), sub-clause (*6*), was altered by the Select Committee. By error, clause 234 (*now* 238), which deals with the period of limitation for suits under clause 134 (*now* 139), sub-clause (*6*), was not altered. The necessary alteration has now been made."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that, before clause 251 (*now* 258) of the Bill, the following be inserted, namely:—

Joint-landlords.

Joint-landlords. 250A (*now* 257). When two or more persons are joint-landlords, anything which a landlord is, under this Act, required or authorized to do must be done by both or all those persons acting together, or by an agent authorised to act on behalf of both or all of them.

He said:—"The object of this is to prevent harassment to tenants caused by multiplicity of suits. This is taken from the Bengal Tenancy Act, and is a reproduction of section 188 of the Bengal Tenancy Act."

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT said:—"It is gratifying to find this proposal made by a representative of the landlords of Bengal, and I recommend the Council to accept the amendment."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, in clause 251 (*now* 258) of the Bill, before the words "section 85 (*now* 86)" the words "section 84 (*now* 85)" be inserted. He said:—

"This amendment is proposed in order to give the same finality to decisions of Revenue-officers settling fair rents under clause 84 (*now* 85) that is given to their orders under clauses 85 and 86 (*now* 86 and 87)."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, withdrew the following motion standing in his name, namely:—

'that sub-clause (*ii*) of clause 256 (*now* 264) of the Bill be omitted.'

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that, in sub-clause (*viii*) of clause 256 (*now* 264) of the Bill, before the words "Chapter XIII" the words "section 88 (*now* 89)" be inserted. He said:—

"This amendment is proposed to correct an omission in drafting clause 256 (*now* 264)."

The motion was put and agreed to.

[*Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, Mr. Vincent ; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, moved that in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 260 (*now* 268) of the Bill, for the words "in any manner provided in Chapter XVI for the recovery of money" the words "as if they were arrears of rent" be substituted. He said:—

"I understand, Sir, that this will be accepted by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, so I need not say anything more."

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT said:—"I recommend the Council to accept this amendment."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT moved that the Secretary be directed to re-number the clauses and sub-clauses of the Bill in consecutive order, and to make corresponding alterations in all cross-references thereto.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. VINCENT said:—"I have now to move, Sir, that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed. In doing so, I have little to add to the statement I made when introducing the Bill into Council. I attempted then to explain the main principles of the Bill, and there have been save in one respect no departures from those principles in the amended Bill which is now before the Council. Errors and defects have been discovered by the Select Committee on minor points, and I have every reason to be grateful to my Colleagues on the Committee, more especially the non-official Members of the same, for the assistance rendered to me in correcting them, but the main features of the Bill have remained, save in one particular, unaffected by these modifications. The one particular to which I refer is the question of the jurisdiction of Civil Courts. In the Bill, as introduced into Council, there were two clauses which materially curtailed the ordinary jurisdiction of these Courts, and I mentioned at the time that it would be necessary to consider these clauses very carefully in the Select Committee. I refer to clause 95 and sub-clauses (*5*) and (*6*) of clause 134 (*now* 139). Clause 95 is now excised from the Bill, as also sub-clause (*5*) of clause 134 (*now* 139), and in this respect there has been a material change in the Bill now before the Council, but all the other main features of the original Bill have been retained. The principle of the settled raiyat has been accepted in Chota Nagpur, and the rights of non-occupancy raiyats in their holdings have been safeguarded. Enhancements of the rents of occupancy tenants by private contract have been prohibited in clear language, and provision has been made for the commutation of rents payable in kind into rents payable in cash. The prohibition against the sale of their holdings by raiyats has been relaxed in certain cases, and all tenants have been protected against the imposition of fresh abwabs or rakumats, and it is hoped that, by these protective measures, the interests of cultivators in Chota Nagpur have been safeguarded and that their position will be ameliorated. On the other hand, provision has been made for the settlement of fair rents by Revenue-officers, and for the preparation of records of landlords' privileged lands, and the interest of the landlords has been considered in these matters; the position of co-sharer landlords also is now ameliorated by the amendments proposed by the Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, and I venture to hope that this Bill may have a really beneficial effect in placing the relations of landlord and tenant in Chota Nagpur in a more settled and satisfactory condition."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH said:—"Sir, when the Bill was introduced into the Council last month, I made certain observations, referring specially to such provisions as seemed to be objectionable, and expressed a hope that they would be fully and carefully considered by the Select Committee to which the Bill was referred. It is, indeed, gratifying to observe that our hope has been realized in a great measure, and I feel bound to say that the Bill received, on the whole, a fair treatment at the hands of the Select Committee. A careful reading of the Bill as it now stands will show that it has been weeded of several objectionable features to

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh.*]

which I had made reference before. It may be said that there are still several provisions to which exception may be taken, but I think I may say without fear of contradiction that the law which we are now going to have is far more complete and satisfactory than the very imperfect Rent Law with which we had to deal for the last 30 years. How far it will be a satisfactory measure in its practical working is, however, another matter, as a great deal will depend upon the selection of officers, who will be entrusted to carry out those important provisions of the Bill which deal with customary rights, specially the provisions under the heads 'Record-of-Rights' and 'Settlement of Rents' and 'Landlords' Privileged Lands.' Sir, the recording of customary rights in jungles is a matter of supreme importance in Chota Nagpur, and I regret to observe that in the first few years of the settlement proceedings which, as Your Honour is aware, have already been commenced in Chota Nagpur, these rights were not recorded with such care and caution as the importance of the matter demanded, and the result has been very unsatisfactory in several cases. The raiyats in whose favour these rights were declared without due safeguard and limits have made an abuse of their rights, and the result has been a waste of jungles in some parts of the district of Ranchi. Our worthy Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Stephenson, has already been impressed with the necessity of having a special legislation for the protection of jungles in Chota Nagpur, but before it is enacted, I submit to Your Honour that it is very desirable to entrust this important duty in the hands of experienced officers competent to deal with the subject. A law may be very good on paper, but unless it is worked by an officer who is able to cope with the situation which this difficult problem of customary rights involves, it is not guaranteed to secure the confidence of the people for whom that law is intended. It may be within Your Honour's recollection that during the discussions of the Bill in the Ranchi Conference, I drew Your Honour's special attention to the fact that very competent officers should be selected for the carrying out of the provisions relating to the recording of customary rights, and I repeat that prayer also on the present occasion.

"It has been a long time since the first draft of this Bill was placed before the public, and we have had a long discussion over it. We are immensely grateful to Your Honour for the very keen interest which was taken by you throughout the whole discussion and for the anxious care which Your Honour evinced in trying to be personally acquainted with the requirements of the people who are directly interested in this Bill. Our acknowledgments are also due to the Hon'ble Mr. Vincent, the Member in charge of the Bill, for the great trouble which he has taken in shaping the Bill in a way that has met with the approval of the public generally and for the judicial frame of mind which he brought to bear upon the discussion of the Bill in the Select Committee.

"Before concluding, I crave Your Honour's permission to allude to one matter which, though not strictly relevant to the purpose of this Bill, is not altogether foreign to it. The Bill which is going to be enacted will apply to all the districts of Chota Nagpur excepting Manbhum, where it may be extended later on with certain modifications to suit the conditions of that district. The five districts within Chota Nagpur have, since time immemorial, formed one Civil District under one District Judge, who is called the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur. Your Honour, when I was leaving Ranchi yesterday to attend this Council Meeting, I was informed that a proposal has emanated from Government to curtail the jurisdiction of the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur by taking out of his jurisdiction two districts, namely, the districts of Manbhum and Singhbhum, and lump them with Sambalpur and form these three districts into one Civil District, under one District Judge, with head-quarters at Sambalpur. I wish that my information were not correct, as I can hardly believe that Government could seriously think of effecting a fusion of such incongruous elements. I unhesitatingly say, Your Honour, that the district of Manbhum and a good portion of Singhbhum have nothing in common with Sambalpur, and, to place them under the District Judge of Sambalpur, with head-quarters at Sambalpur, will be productive of as much hardship to the people of those two districts

[*Babu Kali Pada Ghosh ; Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose.*]

as may be felt by the people of Hooghly and Burdwan if they were placed under the jurisdiction of the District Judge of the Sonthal Parganas, with head-quarters at Dumka. Your Honour, I fervently pray that at the close of your administration you will not accord your sanction to this scheme which, if carried out, will, I assure you, give a rude shock to the people of Chota Nagpur. We are already very grateful to Your Honour for the help which Your Honour rendered us in preventing the transfer of a good portion of Chota Nagpur to the Central Provinces, which was a part of the original partition scheme of Bengal.

"I should be highly thankful if Your Honour could see your way to make a definite pronouncement on the subject, so that it will be known how we really stand in regard to the proposed scheme."

The Hon'ble BABU JOGENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE said:—"I think we have every reason to congratulate the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill on the very satisfactory conclusion of his labours. When the Bill was introduced, I objected to it on two grounds. The first was about the curtailment of the jurisdiction of Civil Courts.

"My second complaint was that the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act should be introduced in Chota Nagpur, so far as they were possible. I find that the first objection has been given effect to, and as regards the second, I am glad to find that so much of the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act as can be introduced into Chota Nagpur have been introduced by the Select Committee, and to-day, through the exertions of my hon'ble friend, Rai Kishori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, most of his amendments were taken from the Bengal Tenancy Act, and which I am glad that the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill has accepted."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned *sine die*.

CALCUTTA;
The 8th October, 1908.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

B. S. Press—23-10—1908—2677J—150—W. M., D'C.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal assembled under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 28th November, 1908, at 11 A.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW FRASER, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. S. P. SINHA, ADVOCATE-GENERAL OF BENGAL.

The Hon'ble MR. E. W. COLLIN.

The Hon'ble MR. F. W. DUKE.

The Hon'ble MR. W. A. INGLIS, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble MR. C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES ALLEN, KT.

The Hon'ble MR. E. P. CHAPMAN.

The Hon'ble IHTISHAM-UL-MULK RAIS-UD-DOWLA AMIR-UL-OMRAH NAWAB ASEF KUDR SYUD WASIF ALI MEERZA KHAN BAHADUR MAHABUT JUNG, Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble RAI KISHORI LAL GOSWAMI, BAHADUR, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR, OF BURDWAN.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD.

The Hon'ble BABU DEBA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, M.A., B.L.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. LARMOUR.

The Hon'ble MR. W. BROWN.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.

The Hon'ble MR. M. S. DAS, C.I.E.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon'ble MR. F. A. SLACKE, C.S.I., the Hon'ble MR. W. C. MACPHERSON, C.S.I., and the Hon'ble MR. M. S. DAS, C.I.E., took their seats in Council.

[*Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Mr. Oldham.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state whether the consumption of liquor has recently been on the increase? If so, to what extent? In view of the fact that the prices of food-grains are abnormally high and that the people are in distress, will it please the Government to state what measures the Government considers it necessary to adopt for the prevention of the increase of consumption?

The Hon'ble MR. OLDHAM replied:—

"The general answer to the Hon'ble Member's question whether the consumption of liquor has recently been on the increase must be in the affirmative.

"In regard to the *extent* of the increase, it is to be remembered that only a little more than half of the area of the Province is under the contract or central distillery system. It is only with regard to this area that precise figures of consumption of liquor are available. With regard to the area under outstills, exact information as to the quantity of country spirit sold and consumed is not available.

"The Provincial Excise Administration Report for 1907-08, to which the Hon'ble Member is referred, shows a considerable increase of consumption only in Calcutta, Burdwan and the Sonthal Parganas.

"In Calcutta the increase was partly due to increase in population and increased wages, and partly to the larger supplies of liquor taken out by the vendors towards the end of last year in view of the increase in duty from April, 1908.

"In Burdwan the increase was mainly due to a larger influx of the labouring classes in the collieries and to better wages paid to them, but was also in part due to reduction of exorbitant prices which were formerly charged by vendors.

"In the Sonthal Parganas it was mainly due to a very good lac business and to better wages earned by the labourers.

"In the central distillery areas of the Patna Division, where the effect of high prices of food-grains was more felt, the consumption of liquor decreased. A statement is placed on the table showing the consumption of country liquor in the several districts under the contract or central distillery systems during the first seven months of 1907-08, and the corresponding period of the current year. This statement shows a large decrease of consumption in Calcutta, the Patna Division and the Sonthal Parganas as compared with that of 1907-08.

"With the object of checking consumption, the duty on country spirit was raised in ten districts in the year 1907-08. And since the beginning of the current year, the duty or cost price has been further raised in twelve districts (or parts of districts). License fees have also been generally raised, and maximum retail prices have also been raised in certain districts. Reductions have been made in the number of liquor shops; and, on discussion of the subject at the recent Conference of Commissioners of Divisions, it was determined that the lists of licensed shops should be further scrutinised. It is also intended to abolish the outstill system throughout the Bhagalpur Division with effect from next year. Strength of liquor has been regulated in the contract and central distillery areas; and in Calcutta the maximum limit of strength has been reduced and further reduction is under consideration."

[*Mr. Oldham.*]

Statement showing the consumption of country spirit in the distillery and contract areas from April to October 1908 (seven months) as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Division.	District.	Consumption during the first seven months (April to October) of 1907-1908.	Consumption during the first seven months (April to October) of 1908-1909.	Increase or decrease during the current year.	Remarks.
		Gals. L.P.	Gals. L.P.	Gals. L.P.	
Burdwan ...	Burdwan ...	27,307	29,530	+2,223	
	Birbaum ...	4,134	4,544	+410	
	Bankura ...	11,843	10,823	−1,020	
	Midnapore ...	19,662	18,462	−1,200	
	Hooghly ...	15,087	14,897	−190	
	Howrah ...	6,101	5,259	−842	
Presidency ...	24-Parganas ...	23,184	19,774	−3,410	
	Calcutta ...	191,745	155,748	−35,997	
	Nadia ..	5,926	4,905	−1,021	
	Murshidabad ...	5,200	4,748	−452	
	Jessore ...	3,288	3,003	−285	
	Khulna ...	3,818	3,746	−72	
Patna ...	Patna ...	55,996	39,767	−16,229	
	Gaya ...	30,048	19,542	−10,506	
	Shahabad ...	8,571	9,136	+565	
	Saran ...	22,698	18,388	−4,310	
	Champaran ...	3 589	3,662	+73	
	Muzaffarpur ...	3,196	6,056	+2,860	Increase due to extension of distillery area.
	Darbhanga ...	2,724	2,122	−602	
Bhagalpur ...	Monghyr ...	15,499	17,962	+2,463	Ditto.
	Bhagalpur ...	5,938	10,531	+4,593	Ditto.
	Purnea ...	...	...	...	
	Darjeeling ...	27,078	26,564	−514	
	Sonthal Parganas	49,818	41,979	−7,839	
Orissa ...	Cuttack ...	5,055	4,690	−365	
	Balasore ...	1,930	1,817	−113	
	Angul ...	...	...	...	
	Puri ...	2,669	2,022	−647	
	Sambalpur ...	6,057	5,046	−1,011	
Chota Nagpur	Hazaribagh ...	7,189	6,106	−1,083	
	Ranchi ..	...	...	...	A portion of this district has been under the distillery system this year, but figures are not given, as there are no available figures for the last year.
	Palamau ...	...	...	...	
	Manbhum ...	67,260	67,303	+43	
	Singhbhum ...	...	...	...	
	Total ...	632,610	558,132	+13,230 −87,708	

[*Babu Gagadhar Prasad; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Duke.*]

DISTURBANCES IN THE CHAMPARAN DISTRICT.

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD asked:—

Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the representation of the raiyats of Champaran, which was published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 17th November, 1908? Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has taken any step to make an independent inquiry into the alleged grievances? Will it please the Government to appoint a Commission, consisting of some high Government officers, some leading indigo-planters, and some distinguished Indian gentlemen of the Tirhut Division, for the purposes of such inquiry?

The Hon'ble BABU KALI PADA GHOSH asked:—

Has the attention of the Government been called to the articles which have appeared from time to time in the *Bengalee* and other newspapers regarding the state of things in the Bettiah sub-division of the Champaran district?

Is it the case that a number of persons were arrested and confined in *hajat*, and that they had subsequently to be released, as their arrest and confinement were found to be illegal owing to the absence of the previous sanction of the Government which is necessary for a Magistrate to take cognizance of the offences with which they were charged?

Will the Government be pleased to inquire whether it is the case, as stated in one of the reports which appeared in the newspapers, that complaints made by the cultivators at the local thana against some indigo-planters were refused by the Sub-Inspector and the cultivators were referred to the Sadar?

Is it the case that the Divisional Commissioner held a conference with the indigo-planters?

Was any such conference held with the cultivators or their representatives? If not, why not?

Will the Government be pleased, in view of the troubled state of things in the Bettiah sub-division, to direct an independent inquiry into the situation by an officer unconnected with the locality?

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the report published in the *Bengalee* newspaper of the 30th October last, under the heading—"An apprehended Indigo Disturbance in Champaran," in which it is alleged that attempts are being made to compel the raiyats at Champaran to grow indigo and sugarcane on their lands on terms offered by the factories, and that people are intimidated and that a woman has been beaten to death?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a petition has been submitted by the raiyats to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject? Has any reply been given to it?

(*c*) Is it true that one of the signatories to the petition, named Sital Roy, was arrested, handcuffed and sent to prison without being informed of the charge on which he was arrested?

(*d*) Is it a fact, as reported in the *Bengalee* of 3rd November, 1908, that 200 warrants have been issued for the arrest of the leading raiyats, who have refused to sow indigo in their lands?

(*e*) Has the Government made inquiries into the matter? If the allegations are true, what orders have the Government been pleased to pass for the protection of the raiyats?

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE replied:—

"The attention of Government has been directed to the disturbances in Champaran ever since they commenced. Its attention was first attracted by the actual occurrence of breaches of the peace; for no representation had been addressed to it or any of its officers on behalf of the persons who

[*Mr. Duke; Babu Kali Pada Ghosh; Mr. Oldham.*]

created the disturbance until breaches of the peace had taken place and the law had been put in motion to repress them.

"Government is not aware that any persons had to be released in consequence of the absence of its sanction to prosecute them, as sanction was granted in the cases in which it was asked for.

"It is not possible to answer in further detail at present, but Government has set itself to restore order and repress crime. The neighbourhood is now generally quiet; and, as soon as it is reasonably certain that there will be no further resort to violence, a full inquiry will be made into the causes of the outbreak. An experienced officer has been selected and furnished with full instructions as to the subjects to be examined; but no such inquiry could be undertaken without greater danger to the public peace or usefully conducted so long as the peace of the district continues to be disturbed."

MINISTERIAL OFFICERS' SALARIES COMMITTEE.

The Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh asked:—

At the meeting of the Council held on the 4th April last, the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary was pleased to observe that the Government considered it a matter of regret that final orders had not been issued until then on the recommendations made by the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee, and that certain further information had been called for by the Supreme Government, and endeavour was being made to supply this as early as possible.

Will the Government be pleased to state if final orders on this matter have been received by this time, and, if not, when the Government expects to receive the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Oldham replied:—

"Final orders have not yet been received on the recommendations of the Committee. As the recommendations involve reference to the Secretary of State, this Government cannot say when orders will be received."

CASE OF PRISONER DURGA CHARAN SANYAL.

The Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh said:—

I have the honour to call attention to the case of Durga Charan Sanyal of the Darjeeling Mail assault case, and to inquire if this Government has consulted the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. If so, will the Government be pleased to announce its decision with regard to the release of the prisoner?

The Hon'ble Mr. Duke replied:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor has carefully considered the case of Durga Charan Sanyal and has also consulted the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam on the subject. It has been decided that the prisoner should be kept under medical observation in jail for a period of six months. After the expiry of that period it is hoped that the Government will be in a position to pass final orders in the case. Meanwhile, it is proposed, in view of the doubts which exist as to the prisoner's sanity, that his treatment in jail should be as lenient as is compatible with proper discipline."

PUBLICATION OF AN INCRIMINATING ARTICLE ON THE TILAK CASE.

The Hon'ble Babu Kali Pada Ghosh asked:—

Is it the case that a warning was administered by the Government to some Anglo-Bengalee papers for publishing an incriminating article on the Tilak case, which formed a part of the Judicial proceedings in that case? If so, was any such warning administered to Anglo-Indian papers which published the self-same article? If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reason for this difference of treatment?

[*Mr. Duke; Babu Radha Charan Pal; Mr. Oldham.*]

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE replied:—

"The warnings given were in every case confidential. They were addressed to all newspapers in Bengal which, to the knowledge of the Government, had republished the incriminating articles. They pointed out the impropriety and possible consequences of this conduct."

VISIT OF CERTAIN STUDENTS TO CHAIBASSA.

The Hon'ble BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL asked:—

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the report published in the *Bengalee* newspaper of the 9th October last, in which it is stated that forty Science students of the Calcutta Presidency College went with their Professor to study Geology at Chaibassa on the 29th September, 1908, but that Mr. Carey, the District Officer, treated them with indignity and turned them away?

(*b*) Did Mr. Carey, before taking such an extreme step, communicate with the Principal of the Presidency College or the Government in order to ascertain the *bonâ fides* of the students and their Professor?

(*c*) If the facts stated in the newspaper be true, what notice has the Government been pleased to take of the conduct of Mr. Carey?

The Hon'ble MR. DUKE replied:—

"The matter referred to in the report published in the *Bengalee* has been and still is, under the consideration of the Government."

THE CHOTA NAGPUR ENCUMBERED ESTATES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble Mr. Duke moved that the Hon'ble Mr. Slacke be added to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, 1876.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE BENGAL COURT OF WARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble Mr. Duke presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Court of Wards Act, 1879.

THE INDIAN LUNATIC ASYLUMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1908.

The Hon'ble Mr. Oldham moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Lunatic Asylums Act, 1858.

He said:—"Section 7 of the Indian Lunatic Asylums Act, 1858 (XXXVI of 1858), declares that a lunatic may be sent to an asylum in a Presidency-town under the simple procedure of an order signed by some person connected with the lunatic and supported by a certificate signed by two medical officers; and, when a lunatic is sent to an asylum under this section, the Visitors or the Superintendent of the asylum may require his friends to engage to pay his expenses in the asylum, unless it appears that they are wanting in means. When it is desired to send a lunatic to an asylum situated outside a Presidency-town, that can only be done (in cases where the Magistracy or the Police do not find it necessary to take action) under the order of the Civil Court, the obtaining of which is apt to cause much delay and [illegible] to the parties.

[*Mr. Oldham; Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad Amir-ul-Omrah.*]

"By section 17B of the Indian Lunatic Asylums Act, 1858, the Governor General in Council is empowered to direct that any Lunatic Asylum in Bengal which is situated at a greater distance than three hundred miles from Calcutta shall be deemed, for the purposes of the Act, to be situated in the Presidency-town; it is proposed by the present Bill to amend that section by getting rid of this limitation as to distance. The result will be to admit of a direction being given to the effect that the asylum at Berhampore and the projected asylums at Ranchi (when opened) shall be deemed to be 'Lunatic Asylums at the Presidency,' and the simple procedure of section 7 will again become available for dealing with Calcutta lunatics."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Oldham introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council.

The motion was put and agreed to, and the Secretary accordingly read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Oldham also moved that the Bill be taken into consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

The motion was put and agreed to.

FAREWELL SPEECHES.

The Hon'ble the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad Amir-ul-Omrah said:—"Your Honour, with your permission I should like to address a few words regarding the abominable incident which took place nearly three weeks ago, which has so much convulsed society and thrown such a thick veil of shame over the country—I mean the dastardly attempt which was made on Your Honour's life at the Overtoun Hall in College Street, an event to which I cannot refer without the greatest regret. The gravity of the crime is only surpassed by the great indignation it has roused and the keen sympathy with Your Honour which it has evoked. The enthusiastic ovation that greeted you unmistakably showed with what abhorrence those present there looked upon the acts of the would-be assassin and with what thankful delight they cheered your most miraculous escape. It was the hand of Providence that saved your life. The exceptional courage and coolness which Your Honour displayed have won universal admiration. We were settling down to think that we had heard of or seen the last of such misdeeds, but the latest and most audacious development has undeceived us, and it seems as if all the assurances of loyalty and manifestations of devotion, the expressions of sympathy and promises of co-operation, the eloquence of speakers and the earnestness of writers, on the side of peace and order, have had but little effect in eradicating the evil which has now assumed such horrid proportions. Whatever may be the immediate object of these repeated villainous acts, there can be no doubt they have to a great extent tended to confirm the apprehension that this spirit of anarchism, confined though it be to a very small section of the community, has taken deeper root than many were aware of or cared to believe. And what is more deplorable, such misconduct cannot but bring misery upon the innocent for the misdeeds of the guilty.

"That such disgraceful incidents should conduce to leave a stain, a very black stain, on the traditional and proverbial loyalty of Bengal, is a matter much to be regretted. The tide of misfortune which is carrying the time-honoured reputation of the country for loyalty towards the abyss of destruction should no longer be allowed to pursue the ruinous course it has so unhappily taken. I speak with all the emphasis I can command, and assure you, if any assurances were required, that crimes and criminal inclinations such as these have nothing but our utter abhorrence and detestation. As I said not long ago, to the hopes and aspirations of the millions of India, be [illegible] such heinous deeds attempts to retard the progress which India under British Rule is

[*Maharajadhiraja Bijay Chand Mahtab Bahadur; Babu Gajadhar Prasad.*]

steadily making in the path of advancement. Let every man, who has any sense of honour, any respect for the good name of his country and community, and any regard for his religion, help to the best of his ability in unravelling the mystery that shrouds these crimes and in eradicating the evil that is eating into the vitals of India.

"I offer Your Honour our sincerest congratulations on your narrow escape, and hope that the same protection may always be vouchsafed to you as spared your valuable life on the memorable evening of November 7th.

"In your immediate presence this is the last opportunity we have of expressing our appreciation of your work not only within the walls of this Chamber but also outside it. The several reforms and measures you have during your term of office inaugurated for promoting the welfare of the people entrusted to your charge have evoked, as they were bound to evoke, a deep sense of gratitude, and there can be little doubt that these will be living monuments of your thought, action and good work in the country which will, in but two days' time, with the greatest sorrow and reluctance bid farewell to you, but which will yet hope to profit by your help and sympathy, though you will be far away from it."

The Hon'ble MAHARAJADHIRAJA BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB BAHADUR of Burdwan said:—"Your Honour this is the last occasion on which you will preside over this Council. We, the non-official members of this Council, beg to offer to Your Honour our sincerest thanks for the very kind consideration that you have always shown to us in Council and out of Council. We, the members of the Hindu community, very deeply feel that, during the last days of Your Honour's *regime* in Bengal, we have given you trouble and anxiety through the misdeeds of a few misguided youths, encouraged by wicked lunatics behind. Sir, I may assure you, on behalf of myself and my Hindu colleagues in Council that the majority of us, a vast majority, I may say, very much deprecate the present state of affairs, and are quite willing to co-operate with Government in the restoration of peace and unity. The only thing we ask from Government is, that while it should take strong measures it should show a sympathetic attitude towards those who are truly loyal. Sir, it is with great reluctance that we bid you good-bye in Council. We sincerely hope and pray to God that you will have a safe and pleasant voyage to your home, and that from there you will be spared by God to take an interest in the province over which you have ruled for five years."

The Hon'ble BABU GAJADHAR PRASAD said:—"May it please Your Honour, as this is the last meeting of the Council over which Your Honour presides, I think it is my duty to express, on behalf of the people of Bihar, the deep debt of gratitude which they owe Your Honour and express the deep regret which they feel at Your Honour's retirement.

"I am glad to say that Your Honour treated the people under your charge just as *Ma Baps* treat their children, and it was in accordance with that mode of treatment that you took special care for the Biharis and other backward people.

"It may be that you might have made some mistakes during your administration, but I think there can be no doubt that you had always the good of the people at heart.

"Your Honour gave us a Training College for female teachers, and thereby advanced the cause of female education, and, in this connection, I cannot help thanking Mr. Earle, our popular Commissioner, for the deep interest which he is taking in the institution.

"You gave us a Training College for teachers and thereby gave greater facilities to our young men to qualify themselves for teacherships.

"You improved the Patna College, the Medical School and the Bihar School of Engineering to a great extent. The Biharis are much indebted to

[*Babu Gajadhar Prasad; Mr. M. S. Das; Mr. Larmour.*]

Your Honour for the establishment of a Hindi Chair in the Presidency College and in the Patna College, and I hope your absence from India will not affect the stability of these institutions. I don't exaggerate when I say that your name has been a household word in Bihar, and the people of the province have rightly resolved to have a separate memorial to keep your *regime* fresh in the minds of the people.

"We always took you to be a virtuous ruler. God protects the virtuous, and it is the protecting hand of Providence that has preserved Your Honour on successive occasions terminating in the event at the Overtoun Hall. I think that, except the anarchists, there is no soul in Bihar, Bengal and Orissa who does not condemn the dastardly attempt on the life of such a noble ruler.

"May Your Honour, Lady Fraser, and your children live in peace and prosperity is the prayer which Bihar puts up before the Almighty.

"Bihar is proud of and grateful to His Highness the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan for the courage and manliness which he displayed in trying to save the life of such a virtuous ruler at the risk of his own life, and I congratulate His Highness upon these virtues.

The Hon'ble MR. M. S. DAS said:—"Your Honour, I do not think that I should be doing my duty as representative of Orissa, neither do I think that I should be doing my duty to Your Honour if I do not, from my seat here, give expression to the feelings of gratitude which the people of Orissa have felt, and continue to feel, for the deep interest Your Honour has always taken in the affairs of Orissa. Though I had not the pleasure of watching the proceedings or associating myself with the proceedings of this Council during Your Honour's presidency, I know how anxious Your Honour was to see that Orissa was represented in this Council, and though this may be the last meeting of this Council, the people of Orissa have the satisfaction of knowing that there is more than one member. From the feudatory chiefs to the poor raiyats in Orissa, all have felt the keen interest, the keen and kind interest Your Honour has always taken. The law of landlord and tenant in Orissa has for some time been felt as being unsatisfactory, and the latest news we get is that Your Honour has deputed an officer, specially qualified for the purpose—Mr. Maddox—to inquire into the law of Orissa. I fully endorse the words in reference to the dastardly attempt on Your Honour's life—the words that fell from the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad and those of the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan. I come from a province where anarchists and anarchism are not known, and the indignation felt here is more than surpassed by the indignation of the people of Orissa. And, certainly, we Indians have to congratulate ourselves that in this Council Room we have a nobleman, whose sense of duty to Your Honour, and whose loyalty to His Majesty, induced him to stand between the revolver and Your Honour's person. Let me assure you, Your Honour, that though a few villainous fanatics (their number is only very small) may entertain a dangerous political creed, which will die with them, either on the gallows or will be washed away in tears of penitence in the dark cells of a prison, the world outside is thoroughly loyal, and will remember your rule in this province with feelings of gratitude, sincere gratitude. Let me on behalf of the people of Orissa wish Your Honour a safe journey home, and long life and prosperity in your country amongst those who are dear and near to you."

The Hon'ble MR. LARMOUR said:—"On behalf of the community I represent in this Council, I wish to express to Your Honour the feelings of indignation held by that community on the dastardly attempt made on Your Honour's life in the Overtoun Hall, and the relief felt by us all in the knowledge that the attempt of the would-be assassin had failed. That the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan should have acted as he did by interposing his own person to receive the bullet intended for Your Honour is no surprise to us who have the privilege of his acquaintance. He has evidenced the courage of his convictions, not by word only but by acts, and has always loyally given his support to the maintenance of law and order among his fellow countrymen. My community,

[Mr. Larmour; Mr. Brown; President.]

Sir, have always felt that in Your Honour as the Head of the Province we have had a just and upright Governor, who has looked with [illegible] on our shortcomings and who has been a kind and sympathetic friend to all who have needed Your Honour's guidance and advice. During a time of [illegible] overwhelmed with official work and full of family cares, you have always found time, Sir, not only to receive our written representations, but to give a patient hearing to our representatives whenever there has been occasion for them to trouble Your Honour with interviews, and I wish to thank Your Honour for your unfailing courtesy and kindness towards us. I do not think that I can add very much to what has already been said by the speakers who have preceded me. I have no doubt that those who follow me will be able to express to Your Honour better than I have done the very great pleasure that one and all of the non-official members in Council have had in serving in the Council, with Your Honour as President. I join with these members in wishing Your Honour, Lady Fraser, and your family, a very pleasant voyage home. We trust you will enjoy long rest and happiness in that small land we all call "Home" and to which every Englishman in this country looks forward to return."

The Hon'ble MR. BROWN said:—"Your Honour—With your permission I desire to add a word of very sincere regret that this is the last occasion on which you will preside at this Council. I wish also to acknowledge, as representing the mercantile community of Calcutta, the ever ready and sympathetic way in which you have invariably received any representations which they have put forward, as also the many opportunities you have given them of expressing their views on all matters affecting the welfare of the public. I assure you, Sir, that they have a very thorough sense of the great and exceptional difficulties which have characterised the period during which you have been the Ruling Head of this Province, and they fully appreciate the large measure of success which has attended your administration. During the last few months, in the very trying circumstances which have unfortunately existed, the strain which you have had to bear must have been very heavy, and the manner in which you have dealt with the position, and, in particular, your attitude in the face of grave personal danger, have elicited the admiration of all sections of the people. I congratulate you, Sir, that in bringing your administration to a close you do so amidst universal expressions of appreciation and regard, and that you carry away with you to such a marked degree the respect and good will of the people of this country."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT replied:—"Nawab Bahadur and Gentlemen, I thank you for the expression you have given to your feelings of loyalty, your execration of anarchy and crime, and your personal goodwill to me and mine. I am sure that there is a strong feeling throughout the country that sedition and lawlessness must be put down with a strong hand, and that the loyal subjects of His Majesty must stand by the Government in this matter. The vast majority of the people are loyal; and they will no longer (I believe) suffer the tyranny of a small but unscrupulous and noisy minority. They will rally effectively for the support of order, and assist the Government effectively in the measures it takes to suppress crime.

"Gentlemen, I have to take leave of you to-day. I have always recognised the members of my Council as my colleagues: my relations with them have always been frank and friendly. I part from them with great regret. I wish the Council itself, and every member of it, all happiness and prosperity; and I can assure you that I shall always remember with pleasure our work together in this Council Chamber."

The Council was then adjourned to a date to be announced hereafter.

CALCUTTA;
The 7th December, 1908.

H. G. WIGLEY,
Secretary to the Bengal Council.

B. S. Press—9-12-1908—1200C—800—W. M. D'C.